Parents Association Advisory Board Meeting
April 25, 2015

Call to Order:
Association President Katie Rommel-Esham called the meeting to order at 9:08 AM. She welcomed everyone and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Those present: Melissa Jarkowski, Steve Lassman, Karin Reed, Melissa Rinn. University Administrators present: Kathy Woughter, Vice President for Student Affairs; Vicky Gebel, Director of Residence Life, Thomas George, ITS Services and Bonnie Dungan, Director, Summer and Parent Programs

Parents Association President’s Report:
Katie welcomed everyone to the meeting and to Hot Dog Day! She commented that the Parent Yahoo group has been pretty quiet over the spring semester until the question of wristbands for Hot Dog Day weekend came up. Questions seemed to be answered pretty quickly and while this is a new procedure most seemed willing to give it a try. With this, Katie introduced Kathy Woughter to speak about this and to give updates.

Vice President for Student Affairs Report:
• Kathy introduced Vicky Gebel, who became the new Director for Residence Life in January after a successful semester-long search
• Athletics:
  • Softball - #4 in region; won Empire 8; we host and if we do well we will go to NCAA. First time on the new field!
  • Equestrian: A couple of competitors are moving on to Nationals (English riders); no division but compete against larger colleges/universities
  • Track/Field: Two students (Miasiah Hillman and Sean Locker) competed in regionals and Sean’s javelin throw was 5 meter’s further than anyone’s
  • CDC: (Career Development Center) now supervises the Judson Leadership Center. Things are going well. We just named incoming cohort; Academy had 100th inductee graduate for the Academy
  • Pub Safety: E2Campus - To be signed up, our son/daughter would have to do so via Banner. We are looking at a new alert system because current system is considered an “aged system” so we are exploring new systems that will allow us to utilize safety aps such as “Circle of 6” for example – free app; but looking at some paid apps we can bundle in with the click; identify location; personal to Alfred. Looking at apps that will allow one to just push a button to make a call. Or even just tap an icon. We are exploring all of these; not a free app as we want it to be specific to AU. But if emergency were to happen, a tap of the finger on an icon would be much quicker than trying to remember a number; especially if one were under stress.
  • Kathy asked for any feedback: She said that we are trying to move away from our Blue Phone system; hasn’t had a call since 2007 so thoughts? They are obviously underutilized (looks good but not being used; using resources) many students have cell phones. We are sending out a survey to students with regards to their cell phone usage. Resources are being spent on the Blue Phones that we are not utilizing. If anyone has thoughts or questions please contact Kathy Woughter.
  • **Question:** Do the Blue Phones work? Student feels uncomfortable on Pine Hill. Response: The lighting installed had the cable cut by mistake; buried under snow and ice so unfortunately not working at the current time but will be fixed. Lot more lighting has been installed so benefits but that one is the only one not working.
  • **Question:** Where are the blue phones? Do the students know where they are? Working on this with more lighting and education of usage.
  • **Question:** Are we made aware of an emergency over at Alfred State? Yes, to a point; i.e., gun on campus, chemical spill, natural disaster but we are not automatically linked. However, we do coordinate with Alfred State. Their Chief would call our Chief to send out the alert. They sent out alert and we say “Alfred State sent this out and we repost.” We make the decision based on the nature of the “emergency” whether we send out notification. There is a siren used that can be heard by both campuses. If you hear go to “shelter in place” that means hunker down and stay put; watch email, text, phones.
  • **Question:** Are students aware of the siren and know what it is? Not as much as we’d like them to be. When tests are done we send out notifications of this; never been used other than drills; student who are in the kiln
area won’t hear the siren, but the noise of the siren is definitely something students would take notice – “what the heck is that?”

• Strategic Planning Update: We are at the tail end of a year-and-a-half long process for strategic planning going forward for the next five to seven years. KW was part of the committee; plans are not yet finalized yet but will be shared with the Trustees in May. The focus is on applied learning for students which means increase (no student will graduate without) in internship/co-op/capstone/undergrad research or student abroad. Employers are looking for graduates with these experiences. Currently students can graduate without participating in any of these. Employers are looking for leadership.
  • Diversity inclusion: Reaffirm our 175 history of diversity; kick it up a notch
  • Sustainability programs: Add new programs that will fit with what job market is asking for; looking at programs that are outdated; weed out what is no longer relevant to current trends.

• Kathy opened the floor to questions:
  • Question: Do we have any unisex bathroom facilities here at AU? Yes, the Spectrum group got this up and running;
  Physical Plant has upgraded and provided signs for all-gender bathrooms; Powell Center. Rec Center – family locker-
room; all-gender usage.
  • Question: Zero Sort – is this the first year that AU has had this? No, actually this is our third or fourth year with Zero Sort; we need to promote better.

Katie thanked Kathy for her updates and then introduced Vicky Gebel, the new Director for Residence Life.

Director of Residence Life Report:
• Wristbands: back in fall Student Affairs Division started talking about HDD. Discuss involved the question: How do know or do we have a good handle on who’s in the residence halls; what is the safety plan to keep our students security. Vicky took the info to her RD staff who in turn took it to their RA’s and the overwhelming response was that they wanted more information with regards to who is in the halls; tossed out the idea of instituting door checks; but still posed the question: what’s missing? Staff wanted to know who’s coming in the door – quickly identify who; how. Friends, Residents, Family. External to our halls; 1 guest / resident. Started with 80; ended up with 560 registered guests. Halls needed to know who family members. Families were exempt from the 1 guest policy; information went out via emails, pamphlets, hall meetings. Due to this being new they did allow requests through yesterday afternoon (4/24-Friday before HDD); A-State can register guests and all would know; we don’t have that technology. Google Doc or iPad would give us this ability but we don’t have this equipment. Want students to get used to the system. Student shows up with friends – registered. Parents show up family, ok. Families aren’t typically the problem; conversations great. Not concerned about families; worried about underage guests and the people that “do the circuit” who have no connection with AU students. Meet at party downtown and say come stay with me – that’s a no! Celebration of our community; not a party city. Conversation with guests but at this time did not have to turn anyone away. Last night it went well. “I,” (Vicky) sat from midnight-4 AM in Bartlett; and students said it was good idea; didn’t love to sign in each time but totally understand importance for us to know who’s in hall.
  • Guest policy – just for HDD or all the time? Paper guest policy is used all the time. Asked to do in advance; not enforced. So will revisit policy. Emergency contact information is the most important; who belongs to; pair up with host; bands indicate who their host is; we can connect. Would like to move to a sign-in process every night; currently all students are “funneled” through one door but still no sign-in process so will look to this next year.
  • Benefit to move concert to the weekend before? Pretty regular weekend. Pairing concert with HDD isn’t a necessarily annual thing. A-State actually had a concert last night and still on our side a pretty regular night. Enough fun stuff but trying to keep them away from the off campus behavior. Large Act depends on their calendars as well. Last year conscious decision to hold separate weekends to help deter activity downtown; didn’t work as we had hoped. We have a new APD Chief who called in more enforcement to help with large parties downtown. The extra enforcement staff from Belmont/Andover/etc. felt this was “fun” don’t see as a bad duty.
  • Vicky then opened the floor to questions/comments. Comment: daughter had problem with roommate issues and the residence life staff have been awesome!!! Everyone has been fabulous. Anytime a problem all the RA’s are great. Wanted to say thank you for all staff have done.

Katie thanked Vicky and then introduced Tom George with ITS

ITS Report:
• Biggest issue affecting students on campus is wireless. Exposing of devices and our system wasn’t ready for it but has been our number one priority. An outside entity did a survey for us and results suggest what we should do; it will be our blueprint going forward. They will work on a “swap-out” with areas such as Cannon and Barresi – similar size buildings use
one as a “test” site; upgraded one building and left one old to compare service. See what one building has and can handle what one doesn’t need.

- Wireless - latest and greatest spec. three waves; we are in wave one; physical access points; just roll out new software and it’s there. Help with “future-proof” Speed will be 10 times better; signal strength/enough devices we are moving those access points; TV/Tablet/Phone/ BYOD – Bring your own device. Working out kinks in test halls but hopefully within the next year upgraded. Most all of our student population have and utilize wireless devices. Before we used one port/bed; still have but are upgrading; 10 times faster. Wired is not the problem but only one port/bed. Wireless capabilities are our number 1 priority. Have brought in extra interns to specifically to work wireless

  - **Question:** Email issues; old system? Upgrade coming in shortly – over summer; handle mobile systems better; mobile focus. Keep in house vs google. Our services have better uptime than google. Every complaint serious because they look at the one issue most likely 7-10 similar issues.

  - **Comment:** Kudos to ITS staff – daughter has had laptop fixed several times at no cost! Very thankful. Proud to offer.

- Phone issues. There were many issues at the start of the semester but they have been fixed; we had to get lawyers involved, FCC; new system; have it fixed. Issue with outside carrier but they didn’t seem to put us as a priority but lawyers make people listen and it is now fixed.

Katie thanked Tom for his update and opened the floor to questions:

  - **Question:** Does public safety have a system to escort back to residence halls? Yes, there is an escort system that many students do utilize. Just call Public Safety (x2108) and they will send someone to your student and escort them back to their residence hall

  - **Question:** How do they decide when Parents weekend for Fall? Why not held at the same time as homecoming? Bonnie will check in to see how the dates for Parents weekend get set. Spring is set in connection with Honors Convocation.

  - **Question:** Why mentalist not on schedule – are parents included? Yes, the schedule was “tentative” when printed

Comments:

- Bomb scare in Ade – my daughter was in Ade at the time; crank call came in saying bomb in Ade; third call this person made to 911 with other things; staff were good/calm, canine group called in; required by law but don’t publicize because it feeds person’s needs to be notorious; panic; but there was none of this here; complimentary to our staff.

- Jazz Band is awesome; space is great.

Katie then thanked Steve for his service to our PAB. Steve spoke about the wonderful experience his son had; son here for only four years; held two internships; went to Germany with professors; club involvement; his experience is very compelling to employers

Katie then thanked everyone for attending, hope they have an enjoyable weekend and meeting was adjourned at 10:15 AM