

Parent and Family Relations Council Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2008
7:00 PM
Minneapolis, Room, Christensen Center

Attending: Sally Daniels, Debbie Connolly, Dennis Connolly, Vicki Matzke, Al Matzke, Chuck Sletten, Charmayne Sletten, Katherine Sanders, Linda Ringstad, Sally McNamee, Nancy Gubash, Rick Gubash, Elizabeth Sipe, Joe Bruckner, John Grobel, Deb Ulseth, Kim Grzesiak, Michelle DuMont, Del Nord, Maggie Dykstra, Neil Okerlund, Valerie Pedersen, Jan Karlstrand, Tamara Karlstrand, Charles Thompson, Carol O. Larson, Tim Matyi, Elaine Matyi, Norm Platsch, Roxanne Platsch, Tim Nelson, Kim Stone, Doug Scott, Michelle Kidwell

The meeting was called to order by Co-Presidents Chuck and Charmayne Sletten at 7:00 pm. The Council's Board was introduced by Sally Daniels – Chuck and Charmayne Sletten (Co-Presidents), Katherine Sanders (Vice President) and Debbie Connolly (Secretary). Jane Brandt was also introduced as next year's Secretary, although she was not in attendance. Introductions were made of the Augsburg staff, as well as all attending parents.

Augsburg President Paul Pribbenow spoke to the Council about the Augsburg experience as well as his view of the future.

As of September 16, 2008, there were 442 students attending Augsburg. One-half of the students at Augsburg are commuters. This fall has been especially good for students. The first few weeks of college are very important to each student's success – each student should have an experience that has an impact.

There are 29 new faculty members at Augsburg, one-half of which are in the Science Department. Most of the new faculty is replacing retirees.

According to President Pribbenow, the college actively involved with three projects.

1. Center for Science, Business and Religion Planning. This new building will house science, business and religion together. It will honor the experience of 140 years of these programs
 - a. Upon completion of this new building, it will reshape the campus by expanding the park areas on campus. Instead of only one Minneapolis city park, there will be many additional park areas.
 - b. There is presently a \$50 million capital campaign underway to raise money for money for this building – a \$1.5 million gift was recently received.

2. Meeting Student Needs. Each year Augsburg works through commissions or themes to determine how to meet students' needs. One mission is to educate in different ways to different audiences.
3. Improvements to the campus experience.
 - a. Hours have been expanded in both the Student Center and the Library.
 - b. New food service -- which is dedicated to being "green" -- composting and "Trayless Tuesdays". These programs have reduced waste by 60%.
 - c. The Student Center is the hub for a new bike program that checks out bikes for students to use.
 - d. Campus Kitchen, which delivers meals to the community.
 - e. ACTC, which is 35 years old, is necessary today to help students travel from campus to campus for classes.
 - f. Augsburg has partnerships with community colleges. After two years at a community college, students are welcomed at Augsburg to complete their education.

At the present time, Augsburg is working very hard to make sure students graduate. This is being accomplished by keeping them connected and offering support services to insure student success.

After President Pribbenow's presentation, Sally Daniels outlined what the Council does and the events that are offered.

The next meeting will be held on **October 21, 2008 at 7:00.** The topic will be "Internships". This is a great topic to find out what is available for your child in the future.

There is no November meeting.

On December 5 and 6, Advent Vespers is held at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. Members of the Council can volunteer as ushers and/or serve coffee and cookies during the break between services. Approximately 8,000-10,000 people gather to celebrate the season at this gala event.

There is no January meeting.

The Council holds regular meetings in February and March. Please let Sally Daniels know if you have a topic that you would like addressed or a speaker you would be interested in hearing.

In April, the Pribbenows open up Augsburg House for our final meeting of the 2008-2009 academic year.

Graduation is scheduled for May 2, 2009. Council members are needed to help hand out programs/usher.

If you have any questions and/or concerns, please contact Sally Daniels at daniels@augsborg.edu or 612/330-1525.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Connolly
PFRC Secretary