



**Parent Network Board Meeting  
Saturday, October 5, 2019**

**PNB Members in Attendance:** Tracey Breazeale P'23 P'23, Jim Burgess '84 P'20, Michelle Cash P'20, Nicole Heath P'22, Cathy Kenworthy P'20, Donna Novitsky P'20, Anne Sinek P'22, KK Streator P'18 P'21

**Teleconference:** Sherie Bernardez P'22, Marc Chiang P'21, Kim Karloff P'22, Gaby Jenkins P'21, Ginny Lee P'21, Amy Mehlman P'21, Tina Thomson P'20

**Guests:** Trey Cash P'20, Bill Gagnon P'23, Teresa Gagnon P'23, Dan Sparks P'23

**Staff in Attendance:** Hiram Chodosh, Ursula Diamond, Erica Perkins Jasper, Rebecca Pelén, Jeannie Scalmanini, Joe Silva '22, Kerry Steere, Nick Macias-Williams

**Absent:** Mayra Addison P'21, Ghada Alurzi P'17 P'20, Randy Anderson P'22, Bengi Atun P'20, Kristin Baker P'20, James Burke P'20, Manoj Chitre P'18 P'22, Jon Frank P'21, Sudhir Goel P'20, Nidhi Gupta P'20, Bill Jacob P'20, Tarun Jotwani P'20, John Lin P'21, Alicia Lloreda P'20, Lisa Love P'20, Suharsh Mittal P'22, Jyoti Narula P'19 P'22, TJ Rathi P'19 P'21, Surojit Shome P'22, Michele Sileo P'20, Linda Singh P'20, Balaji Venkatraman P'22, Rick Verjee P'21, David Zhu P'20

**1. Call to Order**

Ms. Streator called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. on Saturday, October 5.

**2. Approval of Minutes August 14, 2019**

Ms. Streator moved to approve the minutes for the August 14 teleconference. Mr. Burgess seconded the move for the approval of the meeting minutes. The minutes were approved.

**3. Board Business**

- Ms. Scalmanini reminded the group about BoardSpot, the new platform the PNB will use to conduct all board business. BoardSpot will house all agendas, updates, rosters, meeting minutes, and Board Bios. This platform will replace all printed materials. She asked that everyone accept the BoardSpot invitation that has been sent to their email.
- Ms. Scalmanini also introduced Rebecca Pelén, assistant director of alumni and parent engagement, who will be assisting with the PNB. She will support the efforts of the Communications Committee and will assist with the Board in any capacity needed.
- Ms. Scalmanini also reported that all of the committees have connected with potential members and invited them to join committees via Qualtrics surveys. Those who have answered the survey have been added to the committee rosters.
- Ms. Streator reminded all members about the upcoming Civitas events in New York and San Francisco, and encouraged all to attend if possible.

#### 4. Committee Updates

- *Admission Liaison Committee*

Ms. Bernardez reported that the ambassador program is gearing up for their first semester teleconference on October 16. Many new P'23 volunteers plan to participate. The committee now has sixty-seven volunteers ready to help with college fairs all over the country, and excited to participate in the ED1, ED2, and Regular Decision Contact Campaigns. The ambassador contact spreadsheet has also been an important tool for the Admission Office and is used frequently by the staff. It is important to note that with the changing demographics of the incoming class, there is a larger need for Spanish speaking volunteers.

- *Career Development Committee*

Ms. Novitsky reported that the upcoming parent-student networking event will take place on the Saturday of Family Weekend (Saturday, February 15). The hope is to increase the number of students attending the event. All board members are encouraged to attend the event with their students, and to connect with other students.

Ms. Sinek invited all PNBers to help with mock interviews, which are an important way to help students prepare for job interviews. All who are interested can easily sign-up via the [new online volunteer form](#) that allows potential volunteers to see most of the career volunteer opportunities in one place. Those who are able to offer internships should still sign up using the [internship form](#).

Ms. Diamond reported that the Soll Center was open during Parent and Family Orientation and it was a big success. The Soll Center was able to connect with many new families and answer questions. They plan to be open again next year and build off the success of this year. Finally, an important priority for the committee is to identify parents who closely fit within all the interest clusters in order to have equal parent representation across all the clusters.

- *Communications Committee*

The latest edition of [CMC Parent News](#) was released in late September and had an excellent open rate of 41%. This edition featured six stories written by current CMC students about their summer experiences and internships. Ms. Cash reported that the [Claremont McKenna College Parents and Families Facebook](#) group continues to be active and engaging.

There was some discussion regarding a new group created for first year parents, as some were worried that this would cause confusion. However, Ms. Breazeale indicated that she believes most first-year parents know that the official Facebook group is the most up-to-date and has the most detailed information. The committee will begin work on their next issue of the CMC Parent News, which is due out in Mid-January 2020, and will include important information about Family Weekend.

- *Nominating Committee*

The committee continues to work on engaging and onboarding parents of the Class of 2023. Ms. Heath estimated that eight to ten new members will be added to the Board. Ms. Heath also asked the group for nominations for the [Jil Stark '58 GP'11 Volunteer Award](#) which will be presented during Family Weekend. [Click this link](#) to nominate a deserving CMC parent!

Tracey Breazeale P'23 P'23, is the PNB's new Board Engagement Coordinator. Her main focus will be to connect with all board members to be sure they are participating with the PNB in ways that they find manageable and fulfilling.

- *Parents Fund Committee*

Kerry Steere, Director of Annual Giving, explained [The 1946 Challenge](#), which seeks to achieve 1,946 donors in 1,946 minutes. The event runs Wednesday, October 9 through Thursday, October 10. An anonymous parent has set up a challenge that will match \$100 per parent donor and all parents are encouraged to give. The Parents Fund committee also recently mailed their annual parent solicitation letter to all current parents.

PNB member participation stands at 25% of the board. Ms. Heath reminded board members that making a gift to the College is one of the requirements of serving on the PNB, and encouraged everyone to donate in order to reach 100% participation. Working with the Office of Annual Giving, the committee also identified that there is a second opportunity to solicit parents in the spring and the committee will work on writing a second solicitation letter.

- *Programs Committee*

The Programs Committee has recently added ten new parent volunteers from the Class of 2023. The committee will soon connect regarding Family Weekend, which is scheduled for February 15-17, 2020. In order to keep Family Weekend fresh and engaging, the committee will look to add new sessions to the schedule, for example, a trivia event at Roberts Pavilion. There will also be a new session focusing on student wellness for parents to attend during the weekend.

## **5. CMS Athletics and Recreation**

In the four months Ms. Perkins Jasper has overseen Claremont-Mudd-Scripps athletics as the Director of Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreation, she has recognized that CMS is an incredibly high achieving and competitive program, and has identified three main priorities. The first is to foster an atmosphere of integrity and responsibility at all levels. The second is to improve community engagement through the Claremont-Mudd-Scripps and local communities, and increase attendance at all sporting events. The third priority is to create a culture of compliance. College athletics rules and regulations are constantly changing. Ms. Perkins Jasper will closely follow the recent developments at the NCAA level and make sure that CMS adheres to all policies and procedures.

## **6. Welcome from the President**

President Chodosh provided an update on the upcoming campaign and further explanation of the CMC Strategy. The CMC Strategy is a three-prong approach that the

College will take moving forward. The first pillar is to reinforce the College's founding mission, which also provides a map for the future of CMC. The second pillar is integrating data and computer science into all the academic disciplines. The sciences find their way into all of the business sectors and CMC's students should be prepared. With this understanding, CMC is moving forward with a capital campaign to raise funds for a new science center. The third pillar of the CMC strategy is to elevate student opportunity, which aims to remove financial burden for students and increase scholarships.

President Chodosh also posed questions that all parents face today. In a highly competitive academic environment, how can parents support their students? How can students learn from failure and be resilient? At CMC, President Chodosh would like to see an atmosphere of vulnerability and community that can help students during their four years at CMC.

**7. Date of Next Meeting**

Sunday, February 16, 2020 Time T.B.D.

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.