



PARENT NETWORK
CLAREMONT MCKENNA COLLEGE

Parent Network Board Meeting

Saturday, October 1, 2022

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. PT

Kravis Center #321

Present: Allison Aldrich P'24, Carmen Amaya P'25, Tracey Breazeale P'23 P'24, Jay Cohen P'23, Lori Fujimoto P'24, Teresa Gagnon P'23, Kristan Goldfein P'24, Steve Kapner P'22, Chesica Hall P'23, Bobby Lee P'24, Robin Lee P'24, Kristin Merk P'24, Kristi Mitchell P'23, Julie Punishill P'24, Jill Slansky P'23, Lisa Therron P'24

Absent: Kavitta Bedi P'24, Jay Bhatt P'21 P'24, Chris Campbell P'23, Jane Cohen P'23, Susan Daly P'23, Sudhir Goel P'20 P'24, Bridget Hoffman P'24, Amy Mehlman P'21 P'24, Annette Messemer P'25, Susana Pardo P'25, Marisol Rivera Thurman P'24, Rajita Singh P'23, Lisa Thomas P'25, Suzanne Wallace P'23

Guests: Linda Herr P'26, Marsi Gorman P'24; Lucy Kapner '22, Sofia Rojas '23, Professor Jon Shields, Cecilia Son P'25, Kevin Tan P'25, Zane Yamaoto '24

Staff: Megan Fesolovich, Rebecca Pelén, Evan Rutter '06, Jeannie Scalmanini

Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Introductions

At 2:06 p.m. President Allison Aldrich prompted the board to individually introduce themselves. After introductions, board business officially began.

Approval of Minutes from August 9, 2022

Ms. Aldrich introduced a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

Board Business: Committee Updates

Admission Liaison Committee: Ms. Jill Slansky and Ms. Kristan Goldfein discussed upcoming events and efforts. On October 11 the committee will come together for their fall semester call with Jennifer Sandoval-Dancs, Associate Vice President for Admission and Financial Aid. As of now there are 57 volunteers in total and the committee is happy to welcome any additional volunteers to help with their endeavors. Additionally, ideas spread around increasing admissions outreach to underrepresented communities. One idea included increasing the amount of first-generation parent volunteers and having them stay in contact other first-generation parents throughout the school year.

Career Development Committee: Ms. Kristi Mitchell P'23 discussed the committee's ambitions towards looking for volunteers to help conduct mock interviews and coach students on developing interview skills in accordance with the new mock interview program.

Communications Committee: Mr. Steve Kapner P'22 announced that the latest open rate for the CMC Parent News was 70%, which is exceptional. The last newsletter had two articles translated into Spanish, and the committee is looking for any opportunities that would help increase the number of translated articles and increase open rate among a variety of communities.

Nominating Committee: Ms. Tracey Breazeale P'23 P'24 stressed the importance of the board reaching out to new potential members of the PNB. The committee would like to add five P'25 parents and an additional 10-12 P'26 parents. Efforts to onboard new members will begin soon.

Parents Fund: Ms. Lori Fujimoto P'24 announced that eight new parents were interested in joining the committee. With the 1946 Challenge coming, board members are encouraged to participate in the effort. Donations to the 1946 Challenge also count as participation for the Parent Network Board. As of now, board participation stands at 37%, and the committee would like to be at 100% after the Challenge.

Programs Committee: Robin Lee P'24 shared that this past Parent and Family Orientation had many successful stories of welcoming new students to CMC. The New Student Parties around the United States and the world were very successful. This committee will soon bring the committee together to begin planning for Family Weekend 2023.

Campus Update

Mr. Evan Rutter '06 discussed the upcoming advancements within The Robert Day Sciences Center. The RDSC will help CMC stand out as they gain a comprehensive understanding in the intersection between liberal arts and science. The first professors for the science center are starting to be hired and the first computer science course as a part of the RDSC program will start within the upcoming spring semester. The College is still working toward their goal for [The Campaign for CMC](#). As a part of the Roberts Campus expansion, athletic programs and athletic facilities will also continue to develop. The goal for the Roberts Campus (athletics) is to be fully-operational and completed by 2046. Additionally, [The Rose Parade](#) is also upcoming. Shifts to decorate floats are open for alumni, parents, and students. The float is completely paid for by donations outside of regular donations to the college. Finally, the Athenaeum is fully open to students and there are select spots available for parents and alumni.

Project Destined

Ms. Sofia Rojas '23 and Mr. Zane Yamaoto '24 presented their experience with Project Destined. Project Destined is a program exploring market real estate, participating in a “shark-tank” element, and teaching high school students about real estate and financial literacy. Students put many hours within the week to understand the basics of the real estate market and to prepare for bi-weekly competitions. CMCers also have access to professionals in the field in order to add supplementary information and bring real world experience to discussions. This program allows students to explore the practical work of real estate while engaging in a program that prepares them for a professional career in this field.

The Open Academy

Faculty co-director Professor Jon Shields presented on the current and upcoming endeavors of the Open Academy. The Open Academy values freedom of speech, variety of expression, and constructive dialogue. Co-directors Jon Shields and Heather Ferguson are putting efforts towards transitioning the ideas around these three core values into a program to build and enhance a culture of open inquiry. This past year, for the first time, the Open Academy hosted a successful first year dinner to inform students on the values of a liberal education. Professor Shields remarked on how he observed that many students come from high schools where they were unable to truly dive deeply into certain topics, and as a response to this problem, the Open Academy wants to ensure that the CMC college experience guarantees that students have the freedom to express themselves and explore issues. New programming includes Saturday Salons where the Open Academy invites two to three scholars to discuss a topic with different points of view. After seminar style conversations with around 20 students, the group then goes to dinner in the Claremont Village. Upcoming topics include discussions on neoliberalism, the Ukraine conflict, and cryptocurrency. They would also like to feature faculty, creating opportunities for them to present their work, speak on their expertise, etc.

Date of Next Meeting

The next Parent Network Board meeting will take place on Sunday, February 19 during Family Weekend 2023.

Adjournment

Ms. Aldrich adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.