

Board Meeting Minutes

Saturday, September 30, 2023

Present: Allison Aldrich P'24, Carmen Amaya P'25, Kavitta Bedi P'24, Tracey Breazeale P'24 P'24 P'27, Annette Brissett P'25, Lori Fujimoto P'24, Kristan Goldfein P'24, Marsi Gorman P'24, Linda Herr P'26, Dahlia Jabro P'26, Steve Kapner P'22, Bobby Lee P'24, Robin Lee P'24, Susana Pardo P'25, Marisol Rivera Thurman P'24, Cecilia Son P'25, Lauren Sundstrom P'25, Lisa Thomas P'25

Absent: Jay Bhatt P'21 P'24 P'26, Sudhir Goel P'20 P'24, Julie Hill P'24, Susan Kim P'25, Amy Mehlman P'21 P'25, Kristin Merk P'24, Annette Messemer P'25, Lisa Therron P'24

Guests: Nika Patel P'27

Staff: Simone Chatterjee '27, Vince Greer, Rebecca Pelén, Evan Rutter '06, Jeannie Scalmanini

Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Allison Aldrich P'24 called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The members of the board introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes from August 8, 2023

Ms. Aldrich asked for the approval of minutes for the August 8th board meeting. Ms. Tracey Breazeale P'24 P'24 P'27 moved to approve and Ms. Robin Lee P'24 seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Parent Network/Parent Network Board Overview

Ms. Aldrich clarified the roles of the Parent Network and the Parent Network Board (PNB) pointed out how being a part of the Board is different. While Parent Network volunteers might serve on one or more committees, Board members attend four board meetings during the academic year and have opportunities to take on leadership roles. Board members also give a gift of any amount to the Parents Fund. It is the goal of the PNB to reach a 100% participation rate.

Campus Update

Mr. Evan Rutter '06 provided a campus update for the board. He announced that the board will shortly be receiving all the information regarding the end of [Campaign for CMC: Reasonable Leadership](#). This was a massive campaign spanning eight years and was the largest campaign of any liberal arts college. The results will prove to be transformative for the College's students. The campaign raised \$1.07 Billion, surpassing the original goal of \$800 million. Parents made up 10% of overall participation, a testament to their volunteerism and engagement. This campaign helped raise money for need-based financial aid and fund thousands of internships along with 72 different endowed scholarships. Now, the College has turned its attention to communicating donations and investments publicly. Finally, Orientation and Move-In Day was smooth, despite the hectic weather and the transfers and Class of 2027 are adjusting to their new environment. Ms. Breazeale P'24 P'24 P'27 asked questions about the Robert Day Sciences Center (RDSC) and when it is set to open and be used. Currently, all students have their STEM majors through the Keck Science Center. Next year, students will be allowed to select either the Keck Science Center or the RDSC. The year after that, students, who are currently high school juniors, will all have majors through the RDSC. Additionally, current students can switch to have their major through the RDSC once it fully opens. Ms. Mika Patel P'27 asked about the differing majors offered between the Keck Science Center and the RDSC. The new science center will not offer traditional science disciplines like biology, chemistry, etc. Instead, it will focus on interdisciplinary fields (brain, planet, and health).

Board Business

Admission Liaison – Ms. Kristan Goldfein P'24 announced that the committee successfully led the admitted students campaign with 47 volunteers who congratulated families and offered help with any

questions. The initiative was well received with parents appreciating the personal touch. Volunteers also continued to talk to the parents to answer any questions they had throughout the summer. In April, the committee staffed two parent panels for Inside CMC Day and eight volunteers in total shared their student's experiences with the audience. There were also three other volunteers offering additional insight while attending the event. In September the committee added 20 new volunteers to the committee, which places them back to their pre-pandemic membership levels. The committee currently boast 70 volunteers from seven countries and 16 states. Every volunteer has been equipped with a guidebook and important College information that they may pass along to others.

Career Development – Ms. Lisa Thomas P'24 discussed the success of the Parent/Student networking session during Family Weekend 2023. This year it will continue to be their focus and they hope to ramp up its success from previous years. On October 26, Ursula Diamond, director of student opportunities, will host a session titled on the Power of Networking at 8 a.m. PST for the committee's volunteers. The committee also aims to focus on creating connections with international families and alumni. So far, the committee has added four volunteers and hopes to add more after ImpactCMC weekend. Mr. Steve Kapner P'22 asked for an update on Engage.CMC and if parents should join the platform. Parents are invited to join the platform and serve as a resource for student in their career exploration.

Communications – Ms. Marisol Rivera Thurman P'24 reported that the open rate for newsletters has increased from 45% to 75% for the past 2 years. The recent summer edition of the newsletter had an open rate of 75%. The committee is currently planning and meeting for the fall newsletter. Six new volunteers have joined the committee and the leaders are always looking for more. The committee is also trying to make sure there are Spanish translations of the newsletter articles to ensure they are reaching as many parents as possible.

Nominating – Ms. Breazeale P'24 P'24 P'27 informed the board that the committee is working hard to recruit parents to join the Board, working to mirror the CMC campus community. They have currently had very good engagement from parents of the Class of 2027.

Parents Fund – Ms. Lori Fujimoto P'24 informed the board that there are currently seven new parents who are interested in joining this committee. She plans on sending up a follow up email with next steps. The goal for this fiscal year is \$1 million and the Parents Fund currently stands at over \$600,000. The committee hopes more families will donate during the 1946 Challenge. Board participation, it stands at 29% engagement from the PNB.

Programs – Ms. Robin Lee P'24 and Mr. Bobby Lee P'24 informed the board that they were able to engage with many new families during Parent & Family Orientation. Over 100 parents stopped by the Parent Network Board booth and 70 parents filled out volunteer interest forms. Now, many of those same parents are being added to the various parent committees. Ms. Lee mentioned that the committee is looking to add a few local parents to the committee who would be willing to support on-campus parent events.

Constructive Dialogue and Social Connection with Vince Greer

Vince Greer, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs for Dialogue and Diversity, discussed the new framework for dialogue and debate that students will engage with. In his talk with the Board, he focused on these main topics: an overview of dialogue of framework, campus ethos and national context, and a pathway forward. As there is an increase in political polarization, Mr. Greer hopes that this framework, which includes specific community agreements, will allow students to engage with one another and have meaningful conversations. He also reiterated CMC's commitment to viewpoint diversity, freedom of

expression, and anti-racism work. His office is also working on programming, like modules and workshops, that will challenge and equip students for difficult but thoughtful conversations. They recently debuted “fireside chats,” where students gather outside of the classroom to continue their important conversations. Mr. Greer also plans on partnering with clubs and organizations on campus, like SOURCE and the Soll Center for Student Opportunity, where students will develop the important skills to have conversations and respect one another.

Adjournment

Ms. Aldrich adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m.