

CMC Parent Network Board Meeting

Saturday, October 2, 2021
2:30 – 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time

Meeting Minutes

Present: Allison Aldrich P'24, Carmen Amaya P'25, Jay Bhatt P'21 P'24, Tracey Breazeale P'23 P'24, Jay Cohen P'23, Jane Cohen P'23, Susan Daly P'23, Lori Fujimoto P'24, Kristan Goldfein P'24, Chesica Hall P'23, Nicole Heath P'22, Steve Kapner P'22, Kristin Mannion P'22, Amy Mehlman P'21 P'25, Kristin Merk P'24, Kristi Mitchell P'23, Susana Pardo P'25, Anne Sinek P'22, Jill Slansky P'23, Lisa Therron P'24

Absent: Sheri Bernardez P'22, Chris Campbell P'23, Teresa Gagnon P'23, Sudhir Goel P'20 P'24, Nidhi Gupta P'22, Kim Karloff P'22, Jyoti Narula P'19 P'22, Ganiyat Saka P'24, Surojit Shome P'22, Rajita Singh P'23, Suzanne Wallace P'23

Guests: Kavitta Bedi P'24, Jenny Gurev '20, Bridget Hoffman P'24, Riff Hoffman P'24, Bobby Lee P'24, Robin Lee P'24, Wendy Lower, Jonathan Petropoulos

Staff Present: Daphne Achilles '25, Michelle Chamberlain, Rebecca Pelén, Evan Rutter '06, Jeannie Scalmanini, Kerry Brooke Steere

Welcome and Introductions

Nicole Heath welcomed everyone to the meeting and had all Board members and guests introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes from August 18, 2021

The minutes from the August 18, 2021, Zoom meeting were unanimously approved.

Board Business: Committee Updates

Parents Fund: Once again, the goal for the Parents Fund for the year is \$1 million, with a participation goal of 650 parents. The 1946 Challenge will be held on October 13–14. This is a great opportunity to encourage donations and promote the Parents Fund. The theme of this year's challenge is "Then, Today, Tomorrow," and the College will be sharing stories of CMC's impact as told by students, alumni, and faculty.

Admission Liaison: This past spring, the Admission Liaison Committee oversaw an admitted student contact campaign, during which a record 56 volunteers contacted 409 families of admitted students to welcome them, offer advice, and make connections. On October 21, Jennifer Sandoval-Dancs will present fall semester admissions updates and answer questions over Zoom.

Career Development: On October 7, Ursula Diamond will speak to parents over Zoom and present on how students can be career ready in this uncertain climate. The committee is also developing the "I'm Ready" campaign, in which students will reach out to parents and ask about potential internship, shadowing, and interviewing opportunities. Currently

this is something that parent volunteers do, but the hope is that this program will multiply the number of opportunities for students as well as boost student confidence. To date, 20 students have committed to the campaign, but the committee would like to recruit as many as 100.

Communications: The committee's update focused on the progress made on three of the committee goals. First, the next newsletter will have a video component which will feature students talking about their summer experiences. Second, the committee is coordinating with Careers on communications. Finally, there will be Spanish-language articles in upcoming newsletters.

Nominating: The Nominating Committee recruited nearly 100 parents at the Class of 2024 and 2025 orientations. About half of those parents expressed interest in getting involved with the Parent Network Board. The committee hopes to add 5-7 parents from the Class of 2024 and 10-12 from 2025.

Programs: Over the summer, more than 20 welcome events took place around the world. Four or five of these gatherings were hosted by alumni, and the rest hosted by parents. Both orientation events in August went really well. A survey was sent out to attendees after the event, and the overwhelming response was gratitude that the College has worked so hard to make sure students can safely return to campus. The committee also committed to incorporating a virtual element to family and parent events moving forward, including Family Weekend, which will be held February 19–21, 2022.

CMC Institutes & Centers Joint Work/Crisis Simulation

Wendy Lower, Jonathan Petropoulos, and Jenny Gurev '20 presented on the collaboration between CMC's 11 research institutes, with a highlight being the Atrocity Prevention Simulation they hosted in early March 2020. The idea for this event came about after President Chodosh started meetings in 2018/19 to find out how the institutes could collaborate, asking how the institutes can prepare students for the complexities of tomorrow's world of affairs and today's pressing problems. The simulation was a collaboration between the Mgrublian Center for Human Rights, the Salvatori Center for Individual Freedom, and the Keck Center for International and Strategic Studies. The goal of the simulation was to teach students how to process rapid and contradictory information and make decisions and form policies without the benefit of hindsight.

The simulation centered around Zimbabwe and a hypothetical environmental disaster that escalated into a humanitarian and political crisis. Expert human rights practitioners joined from around the world, and students were split into groups representing the United Nations, NGOs, and various governments. Each group was given a packet of information about the crisis. Every hour, each group would get a new folder of materials, and each group would get different information. Groups had to share with one another and determine what information was accurate. The students had to present to the larger group between breakout sessions and receive feedback and criticism from the practitioners.

Forty-five students from across the 5Cs participated in the simulation. Students on the Model United Nations team were also brought in to put the event together. Overall, the feedback was really positive. Students felt that it was really intense, but a memorable experience.

Campus Update

The last year and a half have been incredibly challenging, but it's gone as well as possible under the circumstances. The last five weeks have shown that CMC's return to campus plan is doable and has proven to be safe. The College has had 0 positive cases in the last 3 weeks. Students are taking things seriously. Fall break and Thanksgiving break are potential concerns, however, as students will be traveling. One of the other big challenges has been campus dining, as students are not permitted to dine at the other colleges' dining halls. However, the two food trucks that were brought in have been a huge hit.

The College is working to continue to educate the community on what's happening at CMC and the priorities of the institution, and engage alumni, parents, and friends in the life of the College through the 75th anniversary celebration. The expansion of virtual programs have allowed the College to engage more members of the CMC community.

Chapter programming is continuing, and as of today, Family Weekend will be happening. Some events will be live-streamed.

Adjournment

The meeting concluded with a reminder that the next meeting will take place at Family Weekend in February. The Board then adjourned.