

# Alfred University

## Alfred University Parents Association Meeting Saturday, September 19, 2015 Fall Family Weekend

Office of Parent Programs  
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### Call to Order:

Association President Katie Rommel-Esham called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM

### Attendees:

There were 22 parents in attendance (1 parent of Junior; 3 parents of Sophomores; 16 parents of First Year Students) along with Parents Association President Katie Rommel-Esham, and the following members of University Administration: Kathy Woughter, Vice President for Student Affairs; Dan Napolitano, Director of Student Activities; Bonnie Dungan, Director of Parent Programs

### PAB President's Report/Welcome and Introductions:

Katie introduced herself and guests. She explained what the purpose of the Parents Association is and then explained about our Parents Advisory Board. Typically the Advisory Board meets in the Fall (8 AM) and the Association meeting follows however she explained that we switched it up a bit this year to try and spur attendance. Typically with the Advisory Board will hear from representatives of the University's administration to come and speak about their areas within the University. We've had Residence Life, Dining Services, Academic Services, Physical Plant, etc. come and share with us any changes or updates as well as answer any questions/concerns brought up from the parents. This is also an avenue for our voice to be heard; give input, seek answers; give suggestions, etc. We also have the Yahoo Parent Group where parents can ask questions and receive responses from other parents or if need be, administrators of the group will respond to questions asked. If you'd like to be part of this group, please send an email to [baileyj@alfred.edu](mailto:baileyj@alfred.edu) and she will send you instructions. Many (most of) times the topics of discuss from this group drives the agenda to our meetings. The University is very responsive to these concerns/comments, etc. and will come to speak to meetings.

### Updates

- Spring Family Weekend coincides with Hot Dog Day Spring 2016.
- Fall Family Weekend for 2016 coincides with Homecoming – not always are they the same weekend
- Summer Term courses will be posted for signing up in November (at the same time class registration is for Spring Term)
- Allen Term – classes are posted on the Allen Term website – also students may contact our Registrar's office with questions (Seidlin Hall; 607-871-2123; [registrar@alfred.edu](mailto:registrar@alfred.edu))
- Gifts from home/Dining – provided and discussed AVI handout. Also mentioned that if any student is having issues with dining to encourage them to talk to John Dietrich, Director, Dining Services, Contracted Dining Services. He makes it a point to be very visible on campus; he and his staff are very accommodating to student needs...as long as they are made aware of them.

Katie then introduces Kathy Woughter, Vice President for Student Affairs and invites her to give updates from her area and University updates in general:

- Kathy shared that she and her staff deal with everything outside the classroom...Great things/awful things fall under Kathy. She prides herself with the fact that parents can get in touch with her or her staff with a quick response. Most of the time they hear what goes wrong/is going wrong with

student(s) but loves to hear from parents about what goes well and is always open for these conversations

- President is retiring at the end of the academic year. He has been here for 15 years and during his tenure has been very good to Student Affairs. He understands the need for and important role the Student Affairs staff have/play within the University setting.
- Putting final touches on strategic plan next decade of University; tail end of Strategic Planning – 10 years is a long time; many changes happen and we need to be prepared/decide what world employers need; what we can provide to students to prepare them for the world.
- Student Affairs has done many great things in the past – relook at what has been done to see if should continue due to help beyond college or do we stop one program to start another – budgets affected due to this
- Student Senate – encourage your students to attend – Wednesday nights – hear what’s happening at Intuition
- Check-in Process – in packet from Kathy Woughter there was a letter concerning sexual assault. NYS Governor passed law “Uniform Sexual Assault Policy – “Enough is Enough.” All colleges and University’s must have a process to address sexual assault, date rape, stalking, sexual violence, help friend if friend is in trouble, etc. Here at AU we have this in place. New as of this year - Notation on transcripts; student suspended/expelled for a sexual assault/violence is now listed on transcript. All colleges have to adopt this. Kathy encouraged parents to please check in with their student to see if they’ve heard about this. Make sure they know – help friend; do they know who to talk to, etc. If they don’t know encourage them to talk to staff and email Kathy Woughter.
- Will be posting “Bill of Rights” in Residence Halls
- Main Lounge of Powell – more activity – purchased gaming systems – Wii, Xbox, games for gamers and dance program – dance party – reserve lounge for this.
- The Beth Robinson Johnson Leadership Center celebrates its 10 year anniversary this year. It came about from an anonymous gift from an alumna. That alumna unfortunately passed away in a tragic plane crash and the family allowed AU to name the Center after her which is now called “The Beth Robinson Judson Leadership Center.” Kathy asks that you encourage your student to get involved in the academy, and the many other leadership opportunities they offer.
  - A couple of new opportunities were developed this year; the Athletic Leadership program and the Wilderness Leadership program. She spoke a bit about the Wilderness Program and why it was developed. There is a University-wide committee called “WILD” which stands for Wilderness, Immersion, Learning and Discovery. Due to our rural/remote location this committee was developed to get not only staff but students out to enjoy the outdoors and the beautiful surroundings our rural area offers. Some activities include:
    - Rock Wall (free) – A=State agreement
    - 5<sup>th</sup> year – Horse to Harvest 7 mile hike– equestrian center start, foster lake, end Living Farm’s Acres where there will be wood fire pizza. For further information see: [www.alfred.edu/students/wild](http://www.alfred.edu/students/wild). It’s not a difficult trail but if not a hiker then there are opportunities where one can help out in other ways.
    - Observatory – 9-11 free.
    - Winter Trail Hike – 5 miles on snowshoes
    - Friday Night Hikes – first Friday of each month – Pine Hill Loop
    - Foster Lake – about a mile from campus; mile trail walk around lake – beautiful.
- Safety and security enhancements:
  - Download the AU safety app – Rave Guardian. Voluntary to download – app store “Bluelight in your hand.” Free to download; standard text messaging may apply. Not feeling safe – Rave has an app that lets you know when they start walking and when back; photos of lights out and send to workorder.

- Bystander intervention – let us know if they see something that shouldn't be happening
- All students on Rave Alert – new emergency system – weather alerts, crimes reports. Voluntary to put in parents numbers. If you do sign up you might get an email in the middle of the night that the water is off in Tredennick; or email is out. AU can't turn you off – student will need to go in Banner to do so. Get a text that says – check your email for more information – this only goes to the student. If you get a vague one, you can call the office
  - Katie: My kids will text me to say "I'm Fine, no worries to the vague text."
- Student Affairs has a Facebook page, twitter @kathywoughter – 75% AU stuff; many offices have Facebook pages as well as athletics.

Kathy then introduced Dan Napolitano – Director of Student Activities (Student Affairs team) and said he's the "Peter Pan" of Alfred" Bubble – age

- Dan came here 25 years ago as a student – got job from what all involved in outside of classroom. Partners in the education process. He discussed his role within the Student Affairs division and as Director of Student Activities:
  - Social/Developmental office. When students are not in class, athletics or theatre he and his staff help students get connected through Clubs and Activities. Students take ownership in the development of a group; they essentially are "in charge" of that group. While there may be an advisor (faculty/staff member) to the group, it's the students who take the lead. The advisor is there to advise; not squash the passion of any idea brought forward.
  - "Empty Bowl's" was an idea that was formed but didn't want to be an official "club." That was totally ok; in fact they raised \$2001 for food pantries. They are what is known as an "Informal Club"
    - Others – can't recognize due to insurance – sky diving club. Connect with outside organization but we can't club; motorcycle club – no
    - Par Core – i.e., challenge with a dangerous activity. Skateboard not a club but just do it.
    - Dan can connect with population if interested
  - Student Clubs want to be official – must have 5 members and 1 fac/staff advisor and a written "constitution" that spells out what they want, are not allowed to discriminate or hold "try-outs" They will have, as an "official club" the following:
    - Access to Email
    - Savings Account
    - Reduced Rate at Hotel
    - University Vehicle
    - Professional consultation with Center for Student Involvement team – safe, legal, cost efficient group; diversity with every group
    - Get recognized is easy – getting them to follow-through or continue membership can be difficult, i.e.,
      - Jello Club – has done nothing; they do **not** do jello shots,
  - For a club to be "Student Senate Recognized" must:
    - Club survive on own for one year (no money from senate)
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> year will receive \$250 from student senate
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> year - \$500
    - 4<sup>th</sup> year - unlimited funding after that
  - HOWEVER EACH CLUB EACH YEAR MUST DEFEND WHY THEY NEED THE MONEY
  - Clubs can fail – student passion isn't there but this is ok because it may be revisited in the future and we are set to help them develop
  - Student Activities Board – can't fail – Dan Advises – benefit for all students
  - Student Senate – Tricia Debertolis, Associate Dean for First Year Students and Director of the Campus Center advises – can't fail

- See list of clubs if interested: [http://www.alfred.edu/students/involvement/clubs\\_organizations.cfm](http://www.alfred.edu/students/involvement/clubs_organizations.cfm)
- Drawn to Diversity – two parts of University – Fine Arts School; History of equality 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest to have men and women equally; fuses creativity and equality. Art Force 5 – go out in community; nonviolence; heal due to tragedy; equality. Nonviolence, community based art projects – U of OK – chant of racism on bus; AU did an art -Notre Dame = January. Not about artistic ability but art therapy. All majors – open to all students – 2 credit class
- Contact Dan if you have questions

Katie thanked both Dan and Kathy for coming to share information to our group and then opened the floor to Questions and Answers:

*Question about sexual assault – female – what happens:* Kathy Woughter responded: There are many resources available: Confidential and non-confidential option. Something happened but don't know what to do – Counseling / Health Center – confidential; help facilitate with statement if decide to report this. Title 9 – Deputy Coordinator – Norm Pollard – authorized to take report – will advise/facilitate. Always start with Counseling Center.

*Blue Light safety – what should students do if feel unsafe.* Blue Light system – pick up phone, goes to Pub Safety or 911. Not used since 2007. Cell Phones to call Pub Safety – Safe Ride/Safe Walk system (old “escort” system – chauffer system). Walking escort Rave Guardian System as well.

There being no more questions the meeting adjourned at 10.