

RAMFAM Association Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2008 – 10:00-noon – LSC 224-226

Members Present: Scott & Peggy Schroeder, Greg & Glenna Brissey, David & Roxann Baxter, Joe Garrity, Sally Goodnight, Laura & Bob Huff, Mark Collins, Kristen Parker, Ken & Tami Craft, Chris Napelbaum, Betty & Steven Weiner, Cecelia Luhrs, Fran Zielske, Dan & Melissa Beecher, Steve Lococo, Judy Sayre Grim, Jody Donovan, Blanche Hughes, Jennie Baran, Kacee Collard

- After introductions of all present members, Jody talked about the RAMFAM Association mission and goals :
 - Mission Statement: The primary purpose of the RAMFAM Association is to advance the CSU student and family experience in the university's ongoing mission of excellence.
 - Goals and Objectives:
 - Provide support for families and students
 - Enhance the connection between families, students and the university administration by serving as a direct link for families to the university
 - Assist the university in fundraising for parents and families and other university initiatives to support and enrich the lives of CSU students
 - Provide feedback to the university with regard to family and student issues
 - Communicate family concerns to elected government officials through a legislative liaison
 - Assist with the recruitment and retention of students and the recruitment of RAMFAM Board of Directors members
- Jody asked parents and families to share student and campus issues. Mark asked for advice regarding withdrawing from a course after receiving a bad grade on one test. Jody recommended Mark direct his student back to their academic advisor and the faculty member teaching the course. The group discussed the pros and cons of withdrawing – noting that it is now past the date to withdraw from a course. Now, the best option is for the student to work directly with the faculty member on how to improve. The group discussed “curving” grades and how to register for courses with recommended professors. *(See the Student Issues notes to find course surveys for individual instructors.)* Grading is left to individual instructors.
- Betty talked about working with her student to self-advocate. She spoke of helping her daughter get contact information for an office on campus and the challenge of getting her daughter to make the phone call herself to set up an appointment. Jody suggested Betty is on the right track in helping her daughter, but not making the phone call for her.
- When asked about the changes to Homecoming/Family Weekend, Jody indicated we began working on the changes last November after realizing there was minimal student and CSU participation in the parade. In order to balance the school and community participation, ASCSU set aside funding to offer grants to students to help finance their floats. In addition, we received feedback that students didn't feel like the parade was for them because of a) the early Saturday morning start time and b) the number of community floats. Also factoring in an earlier football game, it quickly became apparent that it would be difficult to juggle a later parade with a route through the oval with the annual 5K race and tailgating in one morning. CSU began working with the Poudre School District and local businesses to negotiate a change to a Friday night

parade. Businesses were on board with the change and PSD administrators indicated it would be a difficult change, as their academic calendar was already set, but a manageable change.

- Family concerns and comments about Homecoming/Family Weekend events:
 - A later start on Friday evening would allow more parents to attend the parade
 - Questions about Reunions on the Oval and why parents and families weren't allowed - liked the idea of having a parent tent on the oval for parade viewing
 - Liked that the parade lead into the festival
 - A great way to expose younger siblings to the college experience by coming to campus on Friday
 - Either light University Ave., or start the parade a bit earlier – it was hard to see the floats toward the end of the parade
 - The festival food lines were very long
 - Plan Homecoming/Family Weekend around religious calendars
 - Ask for more high school band participation in the parade – for high school students, it may be the highlight of the season to play in a college parade
 - Start the parade with a band, rather than end the parade with the band
 - Parade change was great for those running the 5K race – participants were able to get race results and attend different college breakfasts before the game
 - Website feedback – hard to register for the 5K race and hard to navigate; would like to see links to residence hall room rates from the P&F website

- Housing Options after the First Year: families would like to see more information on living on campus versus finding “good” housing off-campus. Cecelia noted the Housing Fair in the spring and Kacee indicated students can log on to the Off-Campus Student Services/Resources for Adult Learners website for rental listings off campus at:
<http://www.ocssral.colostate.edu/online-rental-listings-portal.aspx>

- Parents and family members broke into committees for further discussion. Please see attached committee forms for ideas generated. If you are interested in being on a committee, and have additional ideas, members will be communicating via e-mail during the month.

- Next meeting will be held Saturday, November 15, 2008 in the Student Recreation Center on campus. More details to follow!