

P.F.A. Steering Committee Meeting

Saturday, February 10th

Parents & Family Present

Kathleen Bosl
Althea McDonnell
Eric McDonnell
Karen Norval
Lori Puthoff

UA Staff Present

Kirsten Fitzgerald
Ron McDonald

Minutes

Ron welcomed all and thanked those in attendance before lunch was served.

Those in attendance introduced themselves and shared some background information.

Ron led a discussion, touching on the following points:

Where We Have Come

- Newsletter
- Website
- Help Phone
- Survey
- Recruitment

The *P.F.A.* website was viewed and discussed. **Ron** explained that the website (as well as the newsletter) is preliminary, and will evolve through the association members input.

The *P.F.A.* phone line is intended to be a resource for *P.F.A.* members. The phone line is currently shared by other student assistants not associated with *P.F.A.*; **Lori Puthoff** mentioned the inability to receive an answer to her question when calling the phone line. **Ron** will be cross-training students who use the phone. A new phone line, in an area specifically for *P.F.A.*, is currently being considered.

The *P.F.A. Response Report* was handed out. With over 200 members in the association, only 28 responded to the survey.

Recruitment at Student Orientation was discussed. The suggestion was made for association members to volunteer to speak with other parents, and hand out *P.F.A.* information during orientation, also for parents to receive information sooner – possibly including a *P.F.A.* brochure with acceptance letter.

Where We Could Go

- Benchmarking

Ron and **Kirsten** shared how they have been using information gathered from parent associations at other universities as a model. A handout detailing what other universities have done with their associations was discussed, and the various association websites were viewed.

Where You Want To Go

The following suggestions/questions about *P.F.A.* were given and discussed:

- *P.F.A.* awareness for parents during senior year of high school.
- If *P.F.A.* were to charge a nominal membership fee, what are the benefits *P.F.A.* can offer for the cost of membership?
- Have a blog for parents on the *P.F.A.* website, to enhance communication and allow other parents to offer help.

The following comments regarding UA in general were discussed:

- Parents who live beyond the commuting distance feel lost, possible solution could be to divide orientation by commuters & those living in the residence halls, so parents & students are connected with others in similar situation.
- To include more activities showcasing what the university has to offer during family events.
- Including a link on The University of Akron homepage, under “About UA” – “For Parents of Prospective Students,” to the *P.F.A.* website.

Association Structure

A by-law sample, modeled after The Northern Illinois University Parents’ Association, was given for review & suggestion.

Sibs Weekend

Ron shared how the *P.F.A.* meeting, held on Friday night, at last years Sibs Weekend was poorly attended. He suggested for this years Sibs Weekend to have a *P.F.A.* information table(s), and include a *P.F.A.* brochure in the registration packet. It was suggested that association members become involved in the planning process for Family Weekend, and Sibs Weekend.

What’s Next?

Ron asked parents and families in attendance to review all information discussed & email *P.F.A.* any comments and/or suggestions.