

**Randolph-Macon Parents Association
Board of Directors
Spring Meeting Minutes
Saturday, March 15, 2008**

Presiding: Frank Murphy, Chair
Location: Old Chapel, Topping Room

Order of Business:

1. Meeting called to order
2. Diane Lowder, Vice President for Advancement provided an overview of the Campus Master Plan with designs from firm Ayers Saint Gross.

The presentation demonstrated how the current buildings on campus do not have adequate natural light and common spaces for student interaction.

The master plan proposes an addition to Copley Science Center that will create a new front entrance to the building bridged by an atrium that will provide a fresh new look more in alignment with architectural themes around campus, natural lighting, up-to-date wet lab space, and additional common spaces for the students.

Diane Lowder also explained that R-MC does not have a “front door” to campus and asked the Board of Directors if they thought that the train tracks along Henry Street entrance presented a negative image to prospective parents and students visiting campus. The board members present thought that this was indeed the case and thought that the proposed site was a bad idea for a new entrance to campus.

Diane Lowder also outlined plans to renovate the Brown Student Center. The renovation would allow for expansion of the bookstore, more student activity space, and would connect Estes Dining Hall to the Campus Center.

Plans for athletics facility renovations include shifting the current direction of the football field to run north/south, adding locker rooms, a new press box, and stands on both sides of the field. The College also hopes to build housing alongside each side of the new stadium. This would require the current Annex building to be removed, but would provide visitors a site line through the center of campus from Mary Branch Dormitory to the new stadium facility.

The proposed plan also disconnects the baseball field from the football field and moves it across the railroad tracks. The plan also includes a renovation of the tennis courts and a new facility for coaches’ offices and locker rooms on the opposite side of the tracks.

The costs for these capital projects are estimated at \$90 million. The College’s Board of Trustees will determine the priority for each of the projects based on the success of the upcoming capital campaign.

Diane Lowder also mentioned that to-date a new dorm had been approved and that the College would be breaking ground on this new housing facility in the next 12-18 months. The new dorm will be senior class housing and will be suites/upper-classman apartments.

The College's current goal is to be 100% residential. This new dorm will help the College reach that goal. It was a board recommendation that a letter be sent from the Dean of Students to parents explaining the waiver application process and housing opportunities on campus.

3. Committee Reports

a. Admissions: Anne Nelson Morck

The Admissions Committee is making progress towards their goal of contacting more than 1,000 prospective families. Currently 500-600 phone calls have been made. More calling packets will be sent out for early April calls. Anne Nelson asked that all committee members have their calls completed by May 1.

Anne Nelson also announced that the Admissions Office will be sponsoring several regional prospective student events. The schedule is as follows:

- **Hampton Roads, Virginia - Tuesday, April 1 - 7:00-8:30pm**
UNO Chicago Grill, 5900 Virginia Beach Boulevard, Norfolk
- **Richmond, Virginia - Wednesday, April 2 - 7:30-9:00pm**
Maggiano's Little Italy, Short Pump Town Center, 11800 West Broad Street

b. Communications: Michelle Stewart

Michelle Stewart let the board know that the new parent's page has a lot of helpful information. She asked that they each review the page and send her comments so the site continues to evolve and improve over time. Michelle also hopes to get new pictures added to the Parents Association page soon.

Michelle also let the board know that the Communications Committee is working on a communications strategy to talk with parents about the College's emergency and crisis plans. The first e-mail to all parents was sent out earlier in the day alerting all families that a crisis drill was going to be conducted on campus the following week.

c. Parents Fund: Laura Doherty

Laura began her report by clarifying what "counts" as a contribution to the parents fund. Any contribution, regardless of designation, made by a current or past R-MC parent is counted in the totals of the parents fund. Laura reported that currently the College has 205 current families who have made a gift to the parents fund. Last year at this time, the College had 53 family donors.

The parents fund committee has 45 more households to go before June 30, 2008 to reach their initial goal of 250 donors for the fiscal year. To-date, the committee has tripled the number of donors and doubled the amount of dollars compared to last year.

More than 94% of the Parents Board of Directors has made a gift or pledge to the College. Frank Murphy, Parents Board Chairman, mentioned that he would like to announce 100% board participation on May 3rd at the next Board of Trustees meeting.

d. Parent Relations: Jim Hill

Jim Hill let the board know that planning for Family Weekend is already underway. The Advancement Office has designed a save-the-date card that will be mailed to all current families by April.

Jim also explained that the Parent Relations Committee is hoping to enhance Family Weekend by offering more carriage rides, getting a new menu for the pre-game picnic, improving the brochure by making it easier to read and by involving the Town of Ashland more in the overall planning of the weekend.

4. Frank Murphy thanked everyone for a great year with special thanks given to the sub-committee chairs for an outstanding job, and a reminder that next year's goals will be set at the next meeting of the board of directors on **September 26, 2008**.