The Chair of the CUPA Steering Committee, Elaine Gampel, welcomed everyone in attendance to the Parents Council Meeting. She introduced the staff from the Office of Parent Relations. Elaine shared her story in joining the Parents Council, and stated that the goal of today’s meeting was to help the parents in attendance bring something back of value that would help their students. Elaine introduced Phil DiStefano, Chancellor.

Mr. DiStefano complimented the work of the Parents Council, hoping that the gatherings and work done by the Parents Council would provide a way to share experiences to make the student experience at CU better. He said one question that he often gets at Family Weekend is how to better honor or recognize legacy students, and multiple generations within a family. New graduation cords will be given to legacy students, but he is looking for additional ideas.

He said is #1 priority as Chancellor is promoting student success. There are 24,000 undergrads at CU. How can we insure success for these students, and increase value of parent investment? One of his goals is to increase the graduation rate. CU already enjoys the highest graduation rate of public schools in Colorado at 70%. His goal is to increase that to 80%. “I want students admitted to the University of Colorado to graduate from the University of Colorado.” How are we going to do that?

1. Revamp advising – For this year’s freshman class, the faculty are being asked to develop knowledge of all undergraduate programs at the university so that students can go to one person to get their questions answered. The hope is that professors will not re-direct students to different departments if questions regarding interdisciplinary majors or curriculums are asked.

2. Institute night advising sessions which will occur Monday through Thursday in the evenings. This will help make advising accessible to more students who can’t meet with a faculty advisor during the day.

3. Mentoring pilot program with the freshman class. This program was started last fall, and 5800 freshman students signed up. The goal is to engage all freshman students in the program.

Alternative Sources of Funding:

1. Only 4.5% of the 1.3B CU budget comes from the State of Colorado. It is not desirable to continue to raise tuition.

2. Private fundraising from individuals and from industry research grants will need to increase to cover shortfalls in state funding. The goal is to raise $280 million annually from private donors, and increase industry research grants from $20 million to $100 million.

3. Increase the number of international students from 8% to 12%. This will also increase diversity on campus.

Improve the Reputation of the CU Campus
1. Stopped the 4/20 event, which was not representative of the CU campus, but outside visitors.

2. Continue to sponsor and develop outstanding research like MAVEN, which was a joint effort from CU, Lockheed, NASA, and Excellus. This 10 year project will culminate in the space craft entering Mars’s atmosphere at 7:00 p.m. Sunday evening. The craft has a 3 minute window to enter the atmosphere. This project is an example of the kind of work that CU can do and meets all the goals of the Chancellor: 150 undergrad and grad students worked on the project. The project developed alternate sources of funding for the University in the amount of $650 million, and the reputation of CU’s excellence will improve as we publish this kind of groundbreaking efforts.

The Chancellor took questions from the Parents:

1. Is a discount to legacy families planned for the future? Not at this time, but it is certainly something that we want to consider as we strengthen our relationships with good CU families

2. Are sophomores eligible for the mentoring program? Not at this time, the pilot mentoring program is designed to help the 46-48% of students who are not currently participating in the RAP program.

Elaine Gampel thanked the Chancellor, and shared the purpose of the Steering Committee, which is to serve as a liaison between the Office of Parent Relations and the Parent Community. She asked the Steering Committee to stand, introduce themselves, and tell a little bit about their student and why they joined the Steering Committee.

Student Recreation Center Update

Tim Jorgensen, Associate Director of the Recreation Center, and Annie Mulvanny, Marketing Director shared a video and presentation about the Student Recreation Center. A link to the video is attached here.

The Student Recreation Center houses Fitness and Wellness, Club Sports, and Intramurals. They just completed a $63.5 Million renovation and expansion. The facility grew from 210,000 square feet to 300,000 square feet, and the utility bills dropped in half. A number of sustainability measures were incorporated into the new facility. The Be Fit pass is $85/semester. Free fitness classes are offered during finals week.

The College of Media, Communications, and Information

Director Christopher Braider shared the process by which this new college was developed in 4 years with input from a number of stakeholders. The Regents of CU charged the University with developing this college to promote interdisciplinary media and information work from the old college of Journalism.

The new college offers advertising, public relations, media design, journalism, media studies, information sciences, critical media practices, and intermedia arts, which is a doctorate program.

The creative industries within Media and Communication are the fastest growing sector of job growth.

There are 1100 students in the first year of the new college, and by year 5, it is expected that the college will have 3000 students.
This college also represents a new budget model and new administration structure for the University. A link to the Power Point Presentation is attached here.

**Career Services**

Kevin Glavin, PhD. presented the Graduate Destination Project which is underway at Career Services. He said “It’s a smart thing to have your students come see us sooner, rather than later.” Career Services has not been gathering data to show ROI on college expenses. The Whitehouse College Scorecard purports to do this, but most colleges want control over the narrative, and don’t really trust the government to gather the data.

The Graduate Destination Project surveyed CU graduates 6 months post-graduation, and found that 77% were working, 9% were attending a graduate or professional school, and 4% were volunteering or traveling. The survey had a 20% response rate. The average salary from an Arts and Sciences graduate was $44,000, Business school $46,800, and Engineering 55,800. The survey is expected to be published in December. One of the challenges is that survey was done via e-mail, and Career Services had some logistical challenges obtaining current e-mail addresses for students, other than the CU e-mail.

**Barney Ballinger, Director of Parent Relations**

Barney shared that the Office of Parent Relations has been working with the Steering Committee to develop a new model for the Parent Council. The goal is to provide opportunities for volunteerism, provide parents opportunities to share their perspectives and insights with the University, and provide more benefits like access to speakers and professors at the University. A Parent Council Portal has been established where you can gather all needed information, and see volunteer schedules. This should help make your volunteer time most efficient and rewarding.

**Deb Coffin, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs**

Deb Coffin thanked all the parents for their volunteerism and input. She said your help makes us a stronger University. She reiterated the Chancellor’s goals which are 1) student success, 2) development of new revenue strategies 3) enhance the reputation of the University. She is charged with the personal growth and success of the students focusing on their health and well-being. She said that the Student Affairs culture is changing to a metrics-based model developing a 3 year plan to define its’ performance. The current initiatives include:

1. Engagement and support. Cultural Unity and Engagement Services
2. Student Support Services
3. Residence Life
4. Student Club Organization
5. Career Services
6. International Outreach
7. Title IX Leadership Process and Education Improvement
8. Mental Health Services
9. New Dining Center at Williams Village with a greenhouse initiative for farm to table foodservices
10. Office of Parent Relations
11. CU Collegiate Recovery Program
Deb Coffin took questions from the audience

1. How do you identify students in need of support? Our office needs to balance the trust the 18 year old (adult) student has in us, and the need for intervention. Our residential education program is staffed with RAs whose job it is to keep a watch out for dangerous behavior. We operate with a Good Samaritan policy that a student is not penalized under the student code of conduct for identifying substance abuse in other students as needed.

At the conclusion of Deb’s question and answer period, Elaine Gampel thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting.