Semi-annual Conference Call: We thank all the parents who called in to join us for our meeting.

1. Regarding students driving their own cars to school-sponsored functions (e.g., sport teams). John Kennedy reported that the University will supply vans for these events and that the students will not be allowed to drive their own vehicles.

2. Housing Lotto for 2005-2006 school year: Paul Racanello reported that this year’s housing lotto will be in the following order. Upcoming Senior Honors students, then the rest of the upcoming Senior class; upcoming Junior Honors and the rest of the upcoming Junior class; then Sophomore Honors followed by the rest of the Sophomore class.

3. Parent Newsletter: DUPC was asked to put a note in the parent newsletter regarding the parking situation on campus and to ask incoming freshmen to leave their cars at home. Also, during the summer, we will be making contact with local DU parents to invite their participation in the DUPC.

4. Strategic planning: The search is on for a new V.P. of Institutional Advancement as Vern Hummel will be resigning his position.

5. Student Health & Wellness: The University is considering having mandatory Meningitis shots required for Fall of 2006. The new DU nursing staff has gotten great reviews, and the students are extremely pleased.

6. Spring Break: It was asked why Spring Break is not planned to coincide with Easter. The administration has always split the semester exactly in half. If the date of Easter were to determine the break, there would be years when the break would fall too close to final exams and graduation. Both students and faculty prefer a mid-semester break.

7. Student Representative: Kyle Schneider reported that his meetings with Bon Appetit (dining services) have gone well. Manager Dave Wilson is very receptive to students’ suggestions. Kyle also reported that all is good on the student dorm side of campus life.

8. Insurance: John Kennedy has asked DUPC to send a letter out to parents to make sure that their homeowners policies cover the student in the dorm re: personal items stolen or damaged. Also, parents should have liability coverage for damages to property caused by their students.

9. Construction: The new science building will break ground in the Fall of this year.

10. E-Scrip: Parents are reminded to sign up for E-Script at www.escript.com. DU’s group number is 500000591.

Next meeting is May 3rd at 4:30 PM in Guzman Hall. All DU parents are invited to attend.

Submitted by Gary Gillard
Meeting Notes from Dominican University Parent Council (DUPC)
May 3rd 2005

1. Parent annual fund was reviewed and it was reported that we had less contributions this year and both parents and dollars. It was suggested that we might have a call the parents night next year and to target a certain cause for the donations, also to find out what other campuses do.

2. John Paul and David Behrs with the blessings of the trustees will be bringing more activities on campus next year to get the students more to do on weekends. i.e. big screen movies, BBQ, etc.

3. All coaches will be informed of the DU Athletics policy on transportation to and from events, which will be vans or buses, no personal vehicles.

4. Strategic planning report given by Felicia was that the group has been working on growth at DU and how to plan for increase enrollment and funding's.

5. Report was given by Paul that the new DU Alcohol policy has really helped to cut down on drinking on campus and parties, he was very happy.

6. Financial Aid award letters will be sent out as follows Summer students the week of May 15th and continuing students week of May 22nd.

7. Kyle reported that the meetings with food council have gone well and that last weekend there was two BBQ's on campus by the libraries and that they were well attended with football and stickball and volleyball to go along with it. Kyle hopes that there is more of this kind of activities next fall.

8. Facility reports that Pennifort will be closed this summer for hot water system replacement, and that the other dorms are scheduled for summer maintenance.

9. It was reported that only 10 parents have enrolled in Escrip for DU, we will distribute Info at orientation, Come on parents we can do better than 10.

10. Wednesday before Thanksgiving will be a School holiday this year so plan your time.

11. DU is working on a New Overnight Policy for the Dorms for next year stay tune.

Next meeting is June 7th 4:30 Guzman
Minutes of March 1, 2005 Dominican University Parent Council Meeting

In attendance were Dr. John Kennedy, Al Garrotto, Kyle Schneider, and Gary Gillard.

1. Al Garrotto presented a final draft of the spring edition of the Parent Newsletter, which the Council reviewed and approved. The newsletter will be mailed to coincide with Spring Break.

2. The Annual Parent Fund appeal letter, with Parent Council member Gary Gillard as signer, will be finished and mailed on Wednesday, March 2, 2005—the day after our meeting. We are hopeful that parents will be generous, especially in light of expected federal and state education cuts.

3. Since Felicia Silva was unable to attend the meeting there was no report on the University’s strategic planning process.

4. There is a concern among parents of students driving their own vehicles to school functions, such as, field trips, sporting events, and other school-sponsored events. The question was raised in our meeting concerning the University’s liability in these situations and its current insurance coverage. As a corollary to this concern, the parents suggested that the University provide transportation to and from off-campus events to make it unnecessary for students to drive. John Kennedy will check into existing insurance coverage and report back to us at the April meeting.

5. Student Representative Kyle Schneider reported that, as a result of his initiative and the action of the Associated Students leadership, the administration has decided to install a $30,000 attachment to the existing water heating equipment in Pennafort Hall (the main freshmen dorm building). The new equipment will be installed over the summer of 2005 because it requires shutting off the water for an extended period of time. Great job Kyle!

6. Kyle also reported that ASDU is working with Dave Wilson, manager of Caleruega Hall (dining room), on a regular basis to improve the variety of choices in the food service. Kyle is also working with Dave to shorten lines and the time of waiting for the more popular foods.

7. John Kennedy reported a plan to cap the incoming Freshmen count for the next three years at 245/year. The incoming class for the Fall of 2004 was 286. The DUPC was happy to hear this news. He also asked us to think of ways the University can maintain the current level of social and economic diversity in the student body as tuition rises and state and federal grants shrink.

8. John also reported that DU is exploring the possibility of having a Parent Weekend in the spring 2006.

Next meeting: April 5, 2005, at 4:30 in Guzman Hall. This will be our semi-annual conference call with parents who live at a distance, so all PC members are urged to attend.

Submitted by Gary Gillard