

**Parents Association  
Called Meeting (Conference Call)  
March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**Welcome:** Blair Jensen welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

**Present:**

Cindy Wilkins, Marla Carter, Lynda Weeks, and Blair Jensen

**Absent:**

Bob Wilkins, Robert and Patti Hinton, Tonya Hanson, Joe and Barbara Higginson, George and Connie Morgan, Glen and Colette Crown

**Guests:**

No special guests were in attendance.

**New Business:**

**Proposals-**

**1. Take Back the Night T-shirts-Elizabeth Madariaga c/o Betsy Pierce and Julia Johnson**

In recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the Counseling and Testing Center is seeking \$1,500 to off-set the cost of T-shirts for their Take Back the Night program. Take Back the Night is a sexual assault awareness program that takes place each year, the last week of March. This year's event will take place on Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the Justice Center in downtown Bowling Green, KY. Students pre-register to participate in the event and pledge to end sexual violence. At the event, students engage in a march/rally around downtown Bowling Green, often carrying banners and signs to bring awareness to sexual assault. The event also features a candlelight vigil and testimonies shared by victims of sexual violence and advocates for change. The requested \$1,500 would help off-set the cost of printing the T-shirts (nearly \$3,100 cost). The PAC would be featured as an event sponsor and logo would appear on the back of the T-shirt. Other T-shirt sponsors include Meijer food store and The Medical Center. Take Back the Night is just one of several events taking place during the month of March to bring awareness to sexual assault. Other events include "Love the Way You Lie," a student showcase, "Stun 'N' Run," a self-defense program, and Walk a Mile, a sexual assault awareness program during which male students against sexual violence literally walk a mile in women's high heels. The PAC has funded Take Back the Night T-shirts the last two years.

**2. M.A.S.T.E.R. Plan-Western Leaders-Alicia Golston**

Student volunteers, Western Leaders, assist in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the M.A.S.T.E.R. Plan program. These 60 volunteers help new students move into their residence halls, assist with the set-up and tear-down of special events, serve as resources to new students answering their questions and providing directions, and help facilitate evening socials. The Western Leaders are looking for

\$1,000 to help off-set the cost of their registration, lodging, and travel to the Southern Regional Orientation Workshop (SROW) at Murray State University. SROW will take place Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>-Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. Attending SROW provides Western Leaders with the opportunity to develop leadership skills and network with other student leaders at other institutions in the southeast. Additionally, the Western Leaders will serve as student ambassadors to WKU at the SROW conference, representing the Hilltopper nation. In addition to requesting PAC funding, the Western Leaders have hosted a “take back” night with Stakz, a local frozen yogurt hot spot, and are in the process of becoming a registered student organization, capable of receiving up to \$500 in organizational aid from the Student Government Association. The \$1,000 requested would reduce the overall cost of the conference, reduce students’ out-of-pocket expenses, and allow more of them to attend the conference. This is the first request for funding received from the Western Leaders organization.

### **Discussion**

Take Back the Night-members of the Executive Council questioned the impact of sexual assault awareness programs, and expressed interest in reviewing program data pertaining to the outcomes of the programs (i.e. increased reporting, reduced number of incidents, program attendance numbers, increased awareness/use of resources, programs, and services, etc.). Concern regarding the over-saturation of T-shirts was shared as well; would the money spent on T-shirts be better used to fund other aspects of the program or bring awareness to resources/services? Lynda suggested using some of the funds to purchase teal ribbons and donate the rest to campus and community resources and agencies.

Ultimately, Cindy moved to award Take Back the Night \$1,000 to off-set the cost of the program T-shirts with the expectation that information about the impact of sexual assault programs offered on-campus be provided, and that the use of funds for future programs be reconsidered (i.e. purchase ribbons instead, donate remaining funds to local sexual assault agencies). The motion was seconded by Marla Carter. The motion passed.

M.A.S.T.E.R. Plan-Western Leaders-Marla began the conversation by stating that M.A.S.T.E.R. Plan impacts a large number of students on-campus, and their parents as well. She stated that we would certainly want the students assisting with the implementation of the program to be well-prepared, strong leaders, and good ambassadors to the university. Cindy expressed interest in funding the request, but was concerned about the lack of money coming into the Parents Fund.

Cindy moved to award M.A.S.T.E.R. Plan-Western Leaders \$750 to off-set the cost of their trip to SROW. Lynda seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Closing Remarks:** Thank you for your time! See you Saturday!