

Parent Council Agenda
February 8, 2018
6-7:15pm

Attendance: Brenda Hughes, Destin Krownwetter, Sara Hemmingsen, Josh Fitzgerald, Ira and Naomi Gallagher, Jackie Brown, Kathryn Their, Becky Lamoureux, Sammi Wong, AnnaTsoi.

Moss Street Policy update- Sammi Wong, EMU Board Chair; Anna Tsoi, EMU Board House Chair; Jackie Brown, Staff Representative; Kathryn Their, Parent Council Chair.

Two EMU Board representatives asked shared the status of the EMU policy regarding the prioritization of student participation in EMU programs. Moss Street is an EMU program that would fall under the proposed EMU policy. The parents and staff in attendance shared with the board representatives their concerns and questions regarding the proposed policy. Parents shared how important and essential the provision of childcare by the UO is for their ability to pursue their academic goals and to contribute to the UO priorities. They also shared that they see that the provision of childcare as necessary for the assurance that non-traditional students are able to participate in the UO community and for the recruitment of faculty that rely on the work of graduate students. They shared that they feel that childcare is not the same as other EMU programs and that childcare is essential resource with limited capacity and not an extracurricular activity or program. They asked if the new policy could be stronger in delineating how student access will be maintained. They asked if the EMU board could recommend to the UO Policy committee that the Moss Street policy be maintained at the University wide level. The EMU board and the Parent Council thanked one another for the conversation. The EMU board members said that they would take their concerns back to the EMU House committee and full board.

Preschool Classroom proposed changes- Lori Bond, Mentor Teacher

Lori was not able to attend and a meeting to discuss this issue may be scheduled in the future. Becky presented the idea of creating two mixed aged classrooms in the preschool with ages 3-5. Currently the classrooms are divided 3-4 year-old and 4-5 year-olds. Parents asked questions, shared their opinions, support and concerns. The exploration of this idea will be discussed further between staff, and parents. A decision will be made by the time fall applications are distributed. Parents are encouraged to ask questions and share opinions with teachers, Lori and Becky.

Budget process and update- Rate increased starting the beginning of summer term- Becky, Director

In order to maintain a commitment to the Moss Street high quality early childhood program in the context of rising costs, Moss Street will be raising parent payment rates starting the beginning of summer term 2018. Student parent rates will increase by 2% and non-student rates by 6%. The proposed rates for students are below those of most other community centers collated by UO Human Resources. The rates for non-student families are at market rates. The Moss Street proposed budget for 2018-2019 has been approved by the EMU Board and the ASUO Senate. Becky is available for questions and concerns.

Staff appreciation planning-Kathryn, Council Chair

Kathryn asked for parent volunteers for a staff appreciation effort to be implemented during spring term. Other parent volunteers are encouraged to contact Kathryn Thier to assist. Parents shared how appreciative they are of the staff at Moss Street and that they are eager to recognize staff with an appreciation event.