

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

PARENTS' COUNCIL FALL MEETING MINUTES

Select Highlights:

 Parents' Council chairs Mary and Gary Pinkus (P'20, '22) presided at the meeting. New members of the Council attended an orientation session on Thursday, September 27. The full meeting of the Council was Friday, September 28. Save the date: Parents'
Council Winter Meeting
will be held March 1-2,
2019. The Council
meeting will begin early
afternoon on Friday, March
1 and will conclude around
11 am on Saturday, March
2. Additional details to
come.

- The Council was welcomed by President Nathan Hatch, who shared an update on the University:
 - Hurricane Florence earlier this month was a unique situation. School was closed that Friday out of an abundance of caution, but the conditions in Winston-Salem were not greatly impacted. The LJVM Coliseum housed 500 evacuees from affected parts of NC.
 - The Call to Conversation initiative is incredibly important. In these fractured times, we need to converse about issues in civil ways. We are trying to bring the Call to Conversation experience to students on campus and hope to engage 1,000 students.
 - We are continuing to focus on leadership and character. Emerson said that education should always involve intellect and character. We hired former Rhodes Scholar Michael Lamb, who worked with the Oxford Character Project, to build a leadership and character scholarship program.
 - We are revising our Honor Code. Studies show that if you convey standards, people meet them. The College is also reviewing the curriculum and talking about whether we need a requirement in ethical reasoning.
 - As part of our study of the First Year Experience, we know our first year students have a
 great experience, but we believe it can always be better. We are looking into a
 Residential College, with faculty and Campus Life staff living in the buildings; students
 would live in that hall for more than one year.
 - Our new programs in the biomedical sciences and engineering have been a huge success. We had hoped for 40 engineering students, but actually got 80, and 40% of the first year engineering students are female.



- Penny Rue, Vice President for Campus Life, shared an update on campus life:
 - We have installed a new mass notification system, which has improved timely notification protocols. We also developed a parent/family communications philosophy so families would understand what kinds of information can/cannot be shared (for example, cause of death is protected).
 - The Code of Conduct has been updated; these are the baseline expectations for student behavior. The protocol had not been reviewed since the early '90s, and students were involved in the review process. Some students were concerned about expectations regarding campus speakers, particularly controversial ones. There are ways to manage both dissenting voices to be heard and the right of an audience to hear a speaker.
 - We expect Luter residence hall to be renovated next summer. There are also some spring housing challenges: we are very near capacity, and some students returning from abroad may be released from their housing contract.
 - In terms of what keeps her up at night, Penny said it is the stress and anxiety levels of this generation. Our students use our University Counseling Center at a 16% rate, and the national average is 8%.
 - About 47% of our students are involved in Greek life. We are training all students in bystander education and hazing prevention. Organizational medical amnesty has been added for students to seek help.
 - Reynolds Gym continues to be a huge boon for our campus. About 85% of our students have entered Reynolds Gym.
- Provost Rogan Kersh ('86) gave a mini-lecture on Paul Revere's famous ride:
 - The old rhyme we learned in elementary school about the midnight ride of Paul Revere –
 who warned Bostonians of the British invasion to come –did not tell the whole story.
 - Revere had a partner, William Dawes, who rode a second route with the same warning.
 Why do we remember Revere but not Dawes? A new historical theory sheds light.
 - Following their ride, the militia of Boston that heard Revere's warning came in strong numbers. Those on Dawes' route came in much lower numbers. Revere was well known within his community: involved in local organizations, served on juries, he was a man who was a known commodity and whose voice was respected and trusted. He had



a high degree of civic engagement and was accordingly better trusted and listened to than Dawes, who was much more private and not as civically engaged.

- What Dawes' story suggests to us is that it is not enough to be a good and smart person to get ahead, you have to be known and trusted in your community to have an impact.
- So at Wake Forest, we try to encourage students not just to be smart, or ethical, or kind
 but do to all those things <u>and</u> be engaged with ones' neighbors and halls and classmates.
- Chris Williams (P'19, '22) Parents' Campaign Chair (along with Claire Williams), gave a Parents' Campaign report.
 - Chris thanked the Parents' Council members for their participation in the Parents' Campaign last year, and recognized the leadership of Mary and Gary Pinkus, last year's chairs. We had a record-breaking year: the Parents' Campaign of the Wake Forest Fund raised \$4.2 million, of which \$2+ million came from Parents' Council members.
 - For Council members who have not made a Parents' Campaign commitment for this year, a letter with information will be sent to you after the meeting. Please make your gift or pledge before the end of the calendar year if possible. Our goal is to be able to announce 100% participation at the March meeting leading toward another recordbreaking year.
 - During our lunch program, we heard from Dr. Anthony Atala (P'22), Chair and Director of the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine and the W. Boyce Professor and Chair of Urology, and member of the Parents' Council. He shared information on how his research team has grown human cells and tissues for use in transplants. By using a patient's own cells, it eliminates the issue of organ transplant rejection. His research team has done work with bladders, tubes (like blood vessels), and even larger organs. A 3D printer can be used to print organs. There are also exciting applications, such as growing mini-organs to test toxicity of drugs during clinical trials, and to test out which chemotherapy might be the most effective for a given patient. More information is available here: https://school.wakehealth.edu/Research/Institutes-and-Centers/Wake-Forest-Institute-for-Regenerative-Medicine



- The business meeting was adjourned by Mary and Gary Pinkus in the early afternoon so families could attend optional sessions. The Parents' Campaign Reception was held late in the afternoon; the reception honored donors to the 2017-18 Parents' Campaign.
- Save the date for the winter meeting of the Parents' Council, March 1-2, 2019. The
 Council meeting will begin early afternoon on Friday, March 1 and will conclude around 11
 am on Saturday, March 2. Families who wish to attend the WFU-Syracuse game on
 Saturday the 2nd can contact the Ticket Office at 888-758-DEAC. Hotel information is below
 (please use the links to reserve with that hotel)
 - Courtyard Marriott on University (336.727.1277) if you call, please indicate you wish to be in the "Parents' Council" block, or follow this link to make your reservation <u>Courtyard</u> <u>Marriott - University Blvd.</u>
 - Hilton Doubletree (336.767.9595) or follow this link to make your reservation https://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/l/INTWUDT-PCW-20190228/index.jhtml?WT.mc id=POG
 - Kimpton Cardinal (336.724.1009) while we do not have a formal room block at the Kimpton, we have been told that there is plenty of availability for those who go ahead and reserve early.

For any questions, please contact:
Betsy Chapman ('92, MA '94)
Executive Director of Family Communications and Volunteer Management chapmaea@wfu.edu or 336.758.4845