

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

PARENTS' COUNCIL WINTER MEETING MINUTES

Select Highlights:

• The Parents' Council met on Friday, February 23 and Saturday,
February 24. Wendy ('89, MBA '94, P'18, '20) and Elwyn Murray ('89,
MBA '94, P'18, '20) presided on Friday and Jane McGraw (P'16, '20)
presided on Saturday on behalf of Chairs Stacie and Dylan Lissette (P'18).

Save the date: Parents' Council Fall Meeting will be held all day Friday, September 28, 2018.

Orientation for new members will be held on the afternoon of Thursday, September 27. Additional details to come.

- The meeting began with a presentation by Mark Petersen, Vice President for University Advancement, and Penny Rue, Vice President for Campus Life. They provided background on the January 20 shooting on campus. Police have arrested one suspect. Law enforcement authorities continue their efforts to locate and apprehend Jakier Shanique Austin, a 21-year-old man who is wanted for murder. We are in the midst of a thorough review of events associated with the death of Najee Baker. All student events at the Barn, and parties of a similar nature, have been canceled until the University can complete a review and make necessary changes.
- Michele Gillespie, Dean of the College, then joined Penny Rue for a presentation about the First Year Experience (FYE) Commission, which they co-chair. While there is nothing broken about our first year experience, we are always interested in optimizing our existing programs and expanding into new practices that target our students' needs. The vision of the committee is to deliver an integrated curricular and co-curricular experience that educates the whole person and advances the search for meaning and purpose in the spirit of *Pro Humanitate*. Working groups will be presenting recommendations later this spring.
- Head football Coach Dave Clawson and student-athlete Cade Carney reflected on the Deacs' season. They praised the fact that our student-athletes get a great education with small class sizes and a beautiful campus on which to live. Wake Forest was one of six bowl schools who have a graduation rate of 90%. Athletics brings the campus together, and the essence of Wake Forest is that we will win the right way.
- Andy Chan, Vice President of Innovation and Career Development, along with Lee Svete, Associate Vice President, and Heidi Robinson, Director of Career Education & Training, Associate Professor of the Practice, Department of Education, talked about experiential



learning opportunities available to our students, including Career Treks. Students are encouraged to make a Handshake profile with their interests to be in the pipeline for events and activities that align with their career goals and interests. Lee Svete indicated he is happy to meet with any Parents' Council student if he/she feels that he/she did not get enough guidance from one of their career counselors.

- Friday's meeting concluded with a reception and a Career Connects event, where preregistered Parents' Council members could meet students who were interested in learning more about their careers and fields. Approximately 80 students attended.
- On Saturday morning, President Hatch spoke to the Council. He talked about the book Good to Great for the Social Sectors, which talks about how non-profits must be laser-focused on what they are deeply passionate about, what they can be the best in the world at doing, and to know what drives their economic engine. Thinking about Wake Forest, Dr. Hatch said there are four key areas: 1) personal attention and the importance of every individual in the community; for students who have mentors, they are twice as likely to find satisfaction in life after college; 2) the engaged liberal arts, because that helps our students look at life with a background in all disciplines, so that we aren't producing thinkers who are "either-or" but "both-and"; 3) the importance of creating conversations in an increasingly polarized world; and 4) the importance of leadership and character; he referenced the new book The Character Gap by Christian Miller and the work of Michael Lamb on character.
- The Council then heard from Provost Rogan Kersh ('86), who gave a mini-lecture on Millennials and leadership. Key takeaways are that teamwork matters, but Millennials overestimate their ability to work in teams; however, that skill gap can be overcome with teaching. Millennials expect to be leaders in their chosen fields, but they tend to have a lack of trust in other people; this must be overcome in order to be effective. Finally, Millennials have a propensity for following the rules obediently, but they must learn to use the rules to their advantage, as Rogan illustrated with the case of passing civil rights legislation in the 1950s.
- Three seniors, Courtney Toll ('18), Ray Villani ('18), and Ben Weekley ('18) came to talk about Wake N Shake, the student dance marathon that benefits the Brian Piccolo Cancer Research Fund. Students can get involved as dancers and/or they can also support the effort philanthropically. Information is available at https://www.wakenshake.com/



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- Betsy and Mike Greene (P'17, '21), Assistant Parents' Campaign Chairs for Past Parents and Families, gave a Parents' Campaign report.
 - As of February 15, the Parents' Campaign of the Wake Forest Fund had receipted \$2,493,575 towards a goal of \$3.2 million.
 - The Parents' Council members' sub-goal was to raise \$1.8 million of the overall
 \$3.2 million goal.
 - As of February 15, Parents' Council members had contributed \$1,329,311, with 98% participation from Council families. There is an additional \$400,000 in expected pledge payments coming by the end of the fiscal year on June 30th, which would help push us closer to our goal.
 - Current and past parents and families are an incredibly important source of support for Wake Forest. In addition to gifts to the Parents' Campaign of the Wake Forest Fund, many families also support restricted gifts. As of February 15th, gifts to the Reynolda Campus totaled \$8,357,157.
 - For any Council families who have not yet made a Parents' Campaign gift this year, or for families who have a pledge in the system, please remember to make your gift or pay your pledge before the end of the fiscal year on June 30.
 - After graduating senior families were recognized and thanked for their service, the business meeting was adjourned by Jane McGraw.

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Additional details to come.

For any questions, please contact:
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