

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

PARENTS' COUNCIL WINTER MEETING MINUTES

Select Highlights:

- Parents' Council chair Mary Pinkus (P'20, '22) presided at the meeting on Friday, March 1 and Saturday, March 2.
- The Council was welcomed by President Nathan Hatch, who talked about the Soul of Wake Forest:
 - Dr. Hatch opened by acknowledging the recent discovery of racist imagery in The Howler (our yearbook). Even though it is 40 years old, the images are painful, and the campus community is grappling with it. Wake Forest will not stand for racial bigotry of any kind.
 - The Call to Conversation initiative has been a way to help Wake Foresters explore the experiences that have shaped meaning in their lives. It is interesting to note that these conversations often lead to discussions of "eulogy virtues" and not "resume virtues."
 - When asked about the soul of Wake Forest, or what is our animating force, Dr. Hatch believes great teaching and great teachers are in our DNA. This is a place of serious inquiry, but where faculty and staff also have genuine affection for their students.
 - The soul of Wake Forest can also be seen in the wedding of intellect and character in bold and creative ways. We want students to come away from their time here with a deep sense of reflection.
 - Wake Forest is a place where all are welcome. We want to hold up Wake Forest as a middle ground, a place for people who are religious and non-religious, United States students and international, of conservative and progressive mindsets, etc. We do not dictate character to our students, but help them grow in their own perspectives.
 - Dr. Hatch thanked the Council for the many ways they support the work of the University.

Save the date: Parents' Council Fall Meeting will be held from 9 am-5 pm on November 1, 2019, in conjunction with Family Weekend. New Member Orientation will be held on the afternoon of Thursday, October 31. Additional details to come.



- Mark Petersen, Vice President for University Advancement, followed with an exercise about the soul of Wake Forest. Council members discussed at their tables how they first came to hear the music of Wake Forest, and how they would describe Wake to a person sitting next to you on a plane. Some common ways the Council described the Soul of Wake Forest:
 - Support, Pro Humanitate, personal feel, emphasis on character development, warmth, welcoming, camaraderie, engagement of parents, communications, "the people make the place," level of connection, very special community, professors are all engaged, it's 'not a soccer trophy school,' sincerity and genuineness, vastness of kids' experiences, students mature here, size is a differentiator.
- Andy Chan, Vice President for Innovation and Career Development, shared an update on the job market:
 - It is a great market for jobs and internships. Still, it is not necessarily easy to get a job, especially if it is in DC/NY, or if students want to be in marketing or sports, or work for Google.
 - He said not to worry if your students do not have a job or an interview less than 50% of seniors have a job now, and only 2/3 have jobs at graduation, but 97% of graduates are employed or are in grad school six months after graduation. Why? Students do not apply to enough places. It is a numbers game apply more! Also, a Sept. 1 start date means interviewing will be done in June and July. If they want to work far away from Winston Salem, students likely need to go that city to interview.
 - Re: internships: juniors should prioritize dedicated time for the internship search each week. Let OPCD help them get market ready. For first years and sophomores, it is more difficult to get an internship, so it is especially important for them to be really prepared. The OPCD is here to help them.
- The Council then went into a split session:
 - Parents who preregistered participated in an OPCD Parent Connect session, which
 paired Council members with tables of current students to have career conversations
 and to practice networking. This was facilitated by Heidi Robinson of the OPCD.



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- The rest of the Council heard a mental health update from Penny Rue, Vice President for Campus Life, and James Raper, Director of the University Counseling Center.
 - They shared results of a national college health assessment, which compares
 Wake students' answers to college students nationwide. Key findings:
 - 88% of WF students felt exhausted (and not from physical activity) at some point in the previous 12 months; college students nationally reported it at 83%. This is a critical area for overall wellbeing.
 - 10% of WF students seriously considered suicide in the past 12 months, as compared to 12% nationally. The WF figure was only 5% ten years ago. While that seems very alarming, thinking of suicide is not particularly abnormal. Being in college is a protective factor for suicide. A student is twice as likely NOT to complete a suicide when they are in college.
 - The largest WFU student mental health diagnoses are: anxiety, depression, family of origin (FOO) issues (adult children of alcoholics, abuse, etc.), alcohol and other drugs, body image/eating issues, and trauma. Alcohol is the biggest drug of choice for students.
 - Wake's response to growing mental health issues on college campuses is to provide free, high quality, confidential therapy via the University Counseling Center (UCC). The UCC is one of the best staffed counseling departments in the country based on the ratio of care providers to students. The UCC provides counseling, prevention and outreach, consultation/referral, and crisis intervention.
 - There is a pervasive student myth about the inaccessibility of UCC appointments. In Feb 2019, the average wait time was 4.7 business days for a non-urgent first appointment. From 8/1/18 – 2/28/19, the average wait time was 6.6 business days; there is always more demand for appointments at the beginning of each school year.
 - The UCC has an on-call model after hours: any WF student can call 336.758.5273 and be connected to a crisis counselor.
 - Current initiatives: 1) Wake Well. This was a pre-orientation program in fall 2018, which developed a cohort of students to work with the eight dimensions of wellbeing before college even starts, and 2) Student Mental Health Ambassadors,



trained peers who can help deliver messages of self-care, wellbeing, help seeking, etc.

- Provost Rogan Kersh ('86) shared a preview of a potential initiative. Note: this is not public information, so please treat as confidential:
 - J. Fredrick Larson was the architect behind of a lot of great universities. Larson took on the project to move Wake Forest to Winston Salem and agreed to design the campus master plan. He imagined what Wake Forest could be, and expected his plan would guide campus growth and development for the next 30 years.
 - The campus master plan is powerfully and eternally present in our built environment –
 from the buildings and architectural features, to the green spaces, location of buildings,
 feel of the experience, and more. The campus master plan was revisited several times in
 the 80s to the 2000s.
 - Rogan talked about the fact that most campuses have a campus master plan for its
 physical plant, but not an *academic* master plan. The closest most campuses come is a
 curriculum review.
 - o If Wake did an academic master plan, what might that look like? We would need to work with faculty to launch a task force; develop principles/practices, outlines, and needed resources; once recommendations were made, they would workshop findings for feasibility; finally, they would create working groups and set objectives on strategy, negotiate goals, etc.
 - There are many reasons why an academic master plan could be difficult to accomplish.
 But isn't it interesting to consider the possibilities?
- 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.
 - Chris reported that we are slightly behind in the campaign, and urged the Council to be sure to make their gift (or pay their existing pledge) before June 30th.



- Mark Petersen then talked about some of the things that have been possible thanks to parent donations.
 - Mark reported the profound impact of family giving: 1 out of 6 students here are receiving scholarships created in the Wake Will Lead campaign; the OPCD was created mostly with parents' donations.
 - O Giving Society memberships are so important because we do not always have the luxury of a long fundraising effort. Parents' Campaign donations and the Wake Forest Fund Giving Societies help us take advantage of opportunities on the fly. The Wake Forest Fund and the Parents' Campaign helped us be able to create Wake Washington. Similarly, the new engineering program had lots of upfront expenses (building renovations, bringing in experts, etc.), and the Leadership and Character project with Michael Lamb needed Parents' Campaign donations and Giving Societies funding to get started.
 - So, what is next? We are planning for a new building, the College Academic Commons, which will be located at the top Davis Field and will form a new Quad in line with the library. The plan is to rebuild the road up the middle of Davis field (from the main entrance to the Quad) and position the building at the top part of the field. This will likely be a \$50 million project. More details to come.
 - Mark then called on Council member Pat Dwyer (P'21, '22), who shared his thoughts on family giving.
 - Pat talked about the importance of creating a Wake Forest legacy for our families.
 The value of a WFU degree is going to rise over time. Think not just about your students' experience now, but think about your grandkids going to Wake Forest.
 - Pat said that if you give to this school, it matters. He encouraged all the Council
 to step up for the school, and use your influence in your own community to help
 promote and support Wake Forest.
- Minta McNally ('74, P' 02, '06), Associate Vice President for University Advancement, then
 recognized the graduating members of the Parents' Council and thanked them for their
 service.



- In closing, the leadership of the 2019-20 Parents' Council was announced: Claire and Chris Williams (P'19, '22) will be next year's Parents' Council Chairs, and Marisa and Pat Dwyer (P'21, '22) will be next year's Parents' Campaign Chairs. The meeting was then adjourned by Mary Pinkus.
- Save the date for the fall meeting of the Parents' Council: Friday, November 1, 2019. The full Council meeting will be held from around 9 am-5 pm on Friday, November 1. Orientation for new members (or any Council members who could not attend Orientation in 2018) will be held the afternoon of Thursday, October 31.

For any questions, please contact:
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