



OFFICE of FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

PARENTS' COUNCIL FALL MEETING MINUTES

Select Highlights:

- Parents' Council chairs Claire and Chris Williams (P'18, '22) presided at the meeting. New members of the Council attended an orientation session on Thursday, October 31. The full meeting of the Council was Friday, November 1.
- The Council was welcomed by President Nathan Hatch, who shared an update on the University:
 - Dr. Hatch addressed the recent security concerns of gunshots off campus. We have increased security, including mobile cameras pointed toward Polo Road, and increased police presence.
 - The bulk of Dr. Hatch's remarks focused on key decisions or turning points in Wake Forest's recent history. Including:
 - Deciding to have two small increases in student enrollment.
 - Creating Wake Will Lead, our bold capital campaign. One third of campaign commitments has come from parents and families; no other school has this kind of parent engagement.
 - Moving the medical school to our new Wake Downtown campus and sharing that building with undergraduate STEM programs like engineering.
 - Investing in the Office of Personal and Career Development (OPCD), which has been a national leader in the college-to-career pathway.
 - Renewing our physical facilities – both in terms of new construction and refurbishing of existing spaces.
 - In terms of current priorities, he referred to the following:
 - Revitalizing the College's facilities. The College Academic Commons building will house the core humanities departments and will be a hub for the liberal arts. This new facility will be on Davis Field and will form an additional quad with the Library.

Save the date: Parents' Council **Winter Meeting** will be held **February 21-22**. The Council meeting will begin early afternoon on Friday, February 21 and will conclude around noon on Saturday, February 22. Additional details to come.



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- Growing our work in Leadership and Character. Education should be about intellect and character. Dr. Michael Lamb joined us three years ago to begin our efforts; we are anticipating new hires and new courses with the program.
 - Grappling with issues of diversity and equity. It is vitally important that Wake Forest feel hospitable to all who come to Wake Forest, no matter their background, race, beliefs, political orientation, etc. Dr. Hatch has commissioned a Committee on Race and Equity to be sure all Wake Foresters feel at home here.
- Following Dr. Hatch, there was a panel discussion with Andy Chan, Vice President for Innovation and Career Development; Michele Gillespie, Dean of the College, Hof Milam, Executive Vice President, Penny Rue, Vice President for Campus Life, and José Villalba, Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer, moderated by Parents' Council chair Chris Williams. Each of the administrators reflected on the roles of their offices and the ways they interact with each other.
 - Andy talked about the ways in which innovation has manifested in the work of the OPCD and the growth of the office and its offerings.
 - Michele talked about the importance of the liberal arts and strength of partnerships she has formed in key areas: the arts, athletics, and with her College Board of Visitors, among others.
 - Hof talked about his three perspectives on WFU (student, parent, and administrator) and how those perspectives inform the ways he works with strategic decisions on everything from fiscal matters to the physical plant and its beauty.
 - Penny talked about the ways that Campus Life works with its various offerings and programming to help students find common ground in our polarized times.
 - José shared his thoughts on the importance of people appreciating issues of equity and inclusion, and that you do not have to be an expert, but start from a place of empathy and appreciation, and how his office helps partner on policy and practices that can improve equity.



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- The Council was then treated to a mini-class with Michael Sloan, Associate Professor of Classical Languages. He taught us about this history of the Mediterranean using three items proffered by the Council: a smartphone, eyeglasses, and the arch on the Quad.
- The Council broke briefly to get boxes lunches, then John Currie ('93), Director of Athletics, spoke. John has been focused on improving the fan experience, particularly for students, and is proud that 60% of the student body has been to a game so far this year. He is also proud of our graduation rates: all nine of our senior football players will have completed their undergraduate coursework by bowl times, but all nine have decided to stay at Wake to finish the academic year.
- John then introduced Kim Lewellen, women's head golf coach. Kim showed a video about Emilia Migliaccio ('21), who won the individual gold at the Pan Am games, and interviewed Emilia and Lauren Walsh ('23) from Ireland. Emilia and Lauren reflected about their student-athlete experience; both felt tremendous support from their faculty and the various supports in place for the team.
- Mark Petersen, Vice President for University Advancement, and Mike Smith ('89, P'21), Parents' Campaign chair (along with Mary Dee Smith ('93, P'21)), gave a Parents' Campaign report.
 - Mark reported the \$1 billion goal of the Wake Will Lead campaign has been surpassed by tremendous support from alumni, parents and families, and friends. This represents \$400 million new scholarship dollars and will change who will be able to attend Wake Forest for decades to come. 300 first generation students are here because of Wake Will Lead, and we have 1 million square feet of either renovated or new space for our students. Mark recognized the extraordinary generosity of Wake Forest families – and the Parents' Council in particular.
 - Mike thanked the Parents' Council members for their participation in the Parents' Campaign last year, and recognized the leadership of Claire and Chris Williams, last year's chairs. We had a huge fundraising year: the Parents' Campaign of the Wake Forest Fund raised \$3.8 million, of which \$2+ million came from Parents' Council members. For Council members who have not made a Parents' Campaign commitment for this year, please make your gift or pledge before the end of the calendar year if



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possible. Our goal is to be able to announce 100% participation at the February meeting leading toward another record-breaking year.

- Provost Rogan Kersh ('86) closed out the day with a discussion of two initiatives that have not yet been announced (and thus cannot be listed in the minutes; please contact Betsy Chapman for details). He also talked about the work between Wake Forest and Winston-Salem's Boston Thurmond community, which has been named one of the handful of Purpose-Built Communities for 2019.
- The business meeting was adjourned by Chris Williams so families could attend Family Weekend programs, or the OPCD Career Connect networking event (for those Council members who preregistered). The Parents' Campaign Reception was held late in the afternoon; the reception honored donors to the 2018-19 Parents' Campaign.
- **Save the date for the winter meeting of the Parents' Council, February 21-22, 2020.** The Council meeting will begin early afternoon on Friday, February 21 and will conclude around noon on Saturday, February 22. For any questions, please contact:

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