Welcome and Dinner: MacKenzie Luke

In attendance:


Guest speakers:

Emanuel Gunn – ACC – American Campus Communities
Don Liberati – Drexel Campus Services

Emanuel opened up the discussion with an overview of the improvements in housing for current and incoming students. The expectation of a higher number of freshmen was cited as a focus of the Housing department. They have developed more efficient means to encourage students to secure housing. Registration dates have moved for next year from early October to later in the winter term. This will allow students and parents to make better decisions regarding living arrangements.

Second year students and higher will have Housing considerations for Co-Op opportunities. This will minimize the stress and confusion for students entering Co-Op to secure leases that accommodate the need to re-let or relocate.

Emanuel from ACC gave an outline of the level of commitment ACC had in maintaining a strong relationship with Drexel University. He said ACC is committed to ‘getting it right’ and they strive to have a long-term relationship with Drexel. They manage Chestnut Square, Summit and University Crossings.
The members of DFA asked about issues around Co-op housing and ACC properties. David Boonin expressed concerns the restrictions of the leasing agreements. Many students struggle with retaining their living arrangements. David shared a frustrating experience trying to re-let his son’s room for the six-months of Co-op. He suggested the implementation of 6 month leases -2 in succession if necessary - in lieu of a full one (1) year commitment.

Another concern was the number of designated Co-Op units in each of the ACC buildings at Drexel. Emanuel said this year there were 736 Co-Op classified units and next year there would be 1052 units. Some floor plans sell out quickly.

Emanuel said he would share these concerns with ACC.

Emanuel said he understands the desire of students wanting to come back to the living experience that they left.

Drexel Housing will look at the actual percent of students affected by the Co-Op issue and determine what needs to happen to make change.

Discussion continued with more details around maintaining a positive living experience for the Students and their families. ACC and Housing said any suggestions to improve or implement change are welcome. Lisa Daughen mentioned the Housing Webinar on Drexel site and suggested input for upcoming webinars. Clarity on the process and honesty regarding the number of units available is crucial.

Next Topics:

**Commencement 2017.** Looking at not having commencement during finals. There is a policy in place to have all finals completed before the event. This year there were many students that needed to return to classes after exercises to take additional finals. This seemed to be limited to classes that were mixed classes and not exclusively Seniors.

John DiNardo is working on revamping language on this issue.

Drexel is working along with MLB to secure a date for the next 5 years of Commencement Ceremonies. The hope is this will allow for teachers and students to work out scheduling well in advance.
Complaints were made that the parties at the concession stands were loud and became a distraction to the families attending the Commencement.

Overall – Ceremony was outstanding and the Fireworks were an excellent ending to the event.

**Move–in day**

Review of past move-ins and the benefit of specified times and the support of the assisting move-in company. Process is much smoother and less stressful for both parents and students.

DFA Advisory Council members are asked to volunteer at a resource table during Saturday, September 16th and Sunday, September 17th from 10AM-5PM. Sign up doodle is available here: [https://doodle.com/poll/rkx4wxvf5y84d2ph](https://doodle.com/poll/rkx4wxvf5y84d2ph)

**Family Weekend – November 10-12th**

**DFA panel**

MacKenzie is going to get on President’s schedule and see when wine and cheese reception is scheduled and bump the DFA panel right before the reception.

Veterans will be honored at kick off basketball game again. Change of area. Outside of the gym – tailgate event as opposed to the suite used last year.

**Freshman Year Experience (FYE)**

Months ago – sent around the website asking for feedback

Completely Remodeled – Drexel.edu/fye

Parent resources section broken down – academics – how to stay connected – campus resourced, etc.

**MacKenzie opened the floor to David**

David Boonin – shout out to Eric Kennedy

Design your Drexel – a workshop which allows students to be involved in creating/shaping their school experience. David gave a kudos to Kennedy. The
schedule of event was on Yom Kippur. Workshop was changed to following week to allow students to observe the holiday.

1098T – information was changed – typo was corrected and information regarding when Drexel applies scholarships (winter term) as opposed to when they apply money for tuition (fall term) fall into two(2) tax years. Want to give people a heads up. David sent a note to Rosemary to fine tune this message.

John DiNardo – promised to help students to plan their courses in advance. Numerous PDF files on Drexel site – handy tool but still a problem exists that required courses are not always offered in Summer – causes a problem for students on Fall/Winter Coop.

Moving in the right the direction – but still problematic.

Lisa Daughen – survey for student registration - link to site in email to student not connected. What is a better process to have students respond?

If it’s so important – maybe this should be Advisor driven.

There is a tutorial but not user friendly. Perhaps a Webinar for students.

Teaching the students to plan and make informed decisions. Will be a good tool if students are able to use it easily.

MacKenzie:

Thanks to all who attended tonight

Next meeting September 6th at 6PM

Meeting close at 7:30