Drexel Family Association Summer Term Meeting

June 28th, 2016

- Welcome!
  - Introductions/Roll Call
    - Subir Sahu, Vice President, Dean of Students
    - Rebecca Weidensaul, Assistant Vice President, Student Life
    - Jackie Hopkins, Director, Events and Visitor Relations
    - Lisa Daughen (chair)
    - Sue Peckman (Vice Chair)
    - Tracey M
    - Teresa N
    - Noreen M
    - Lesley M
    - David B
    - Kimberly H-N
    - Call in: Amy and Helen
  - DFA Overview
    - Goals and General Expectations
      - Lisa
        - Gratification of giving back to child’s community
        - Support other parents at Drexel University
        - Parents stepping up to volunteer is what keeps the association going
        - Maintain confidentiality
      - Subir:
        - Encourage association members to bring ideas to the table
        - Meetings going forward: at least once a term, but maybe more as needed to discuss upcoming programs or events (some in smaller groups)
  - Commencement Overview
    - First university wide commencement in 20 years at Citizen’s Bank Park. 11,000 in attendance
    - Promote the idea of one collective university
    - 2 days of college specific ceremonies
    - Plans for next year is in the works
  - Move-In Day Discussion
    - Last year: move from summer orientation to fall orientation and one day move in
      - Overall, there was a positive response to Move-In Company
    - Opportunity for this group to champion programmatic efforts for parents during one day move in. What would parents like to see?
Jackie Hopkins:

Overview:
- In planning the day, we are trying to find a balance between preparation, academics, community building
- Friday September 9th – transfer student move in. No support that day
- Saturday Sept. 10th – freshman move in.
- 8am-5pm → move in time scheduled for students ahead of time
- Goal to provide move-in information to parents prior to Move-in Day
  - Critical that there is better communication to parents/families about what move in day will look like (both logistically and in terms of things to do)

Programming Ideas:
- Try to find ways to give parents a little more structured programming (not completely scheduled though)
  - For parents: make sure this year that parents feel more supported
- Make the main building more of a resource location
  - Drexel Central (financial aid, etc.)
  - ISSS session for international parents
  - Recurring all day session for parents in general. Parent panel to answer questions

DFA Parent Ideas
- Need schedule of events
  - Ask parents to register for one of the Parent Info Sessions ahead of time
  - Parents will need to know schedule of events so they can plan to return to the residence halls to help unpack
    - This was not communicated last year

Programming: Orientations Sessions:
- 1 hour, 10 minute intervals of different offices/contacts. Protocol for vital parent issues. Written communication or brochure information for all sessions would be helpful for parents
- Health, public safety, FERPA, DFA
- Have someone representing family weekend to promote that
- Catering/refreshments

Programming: Parent Panels
- Programming in Main → parents table/panel run by DFA
- Different parents have different needs: first time college parents, first generation college parents
- Subir Idea: formal panel moves into reception. Parent and upperclassmen attendees can choose to share knowledge as well
- Students on panel as well to answer parents’ questions – assurances from people living on campus

Jackie → we are having student groups move in early and assist with move in day.
- Important detail: parents know that there are other parents helping out
- Keep more spaces indoors to do things in case of bad weather
- Side Note: Webchats: happening all summer for freshman parents
• Post information for them on DFA Facebook page (specifically that they are recorded)
  ▪ After thought: stress car congestion issues
  ▪ Point people for move in day:
    • Sue, Lisa, David

• Family Weekend 16-17 Discussion
  o Subir: Framework
    ▪ Ideally: November 11, 12, 13. Primary Family Weekend
      ▪ More of traditional program of events.
    ▪ January: smaller family events tied to a basketball game
    ▪ Both to have multiple entry points for family members
  o Blank slate: brainstorm for November
    ▪ Happy hour event
    ▪ Mock class room
    ▪ Casino night
    ▪ Drexel swag as prizes (draws people)
    ▪ Off campus events: lunch and dinner cruises
    ▪ Philadelphia mural tour
    ▪ Museum event at Academy of Natural Sciences
    ▪ “Football” team comedy event
    ▪ Performing arts event
    ▪ Family weekend will overlap with Veterans’ Day events
    ▪ Highlight projects and developments happening at Drexel departments (costume collection, science and technology projects, hyperloop, culinary, sports management, etc.)
    ▪ 125th anniversary Events—
      ▪ Formal events with President or Provost
      ▪ Collaborate with Dornsife for service projects
  o Family weekend point of contacts: Sue, Theresa, Lisa, Noreen, Kimberly

• DFA Emergency Fund Updates
  o VP, Dean of Student Life is officially responsible for allocating funds
  o Current plan is to use it for true crisis situations
    ▪ Get DFA emergency fund back on annual fund option

• Campus ESP
  o FYI: ESP is a parents portal where all information can gather. Contacts, information, articles, that is easy for parents to navigate
  o Hope to pilot this program for upcoming year for incoming freshman

• Hot Topics
  o Add/drop period
    ▪ Students used to have until end of week 2 to drop course. This year, the deadline is now the end of week 1.
• Reasons for the change:
  • Data shows that 2-week policy was not favorable for students. Because Drexel terms are only 10 weeks, students were struggling to succeed in classes that were added in week 3
  • Students will be encouraged to talk to their academic advisors about the change
• Concerns about change
• If there is a topic that is truly of concern, Subir can organize so that people involved in area/decision come to a DFA meeting to discuss the topic

• Reminders/concluding remarks
  o DFA Facebook Page. Closed group – need to request to be added

• Next Meeting: Late August