Drexel Family Association Advisory Council

June 17, 2020  7pm via Zoom

1. Welcome
2. Special Guest – Matt Mechlin, American Campus Communities
3. Commencement Debrief
4. Fall 2020 Update
5. Open Discussion (to conclude by 8:30PM)

Attending: Lisa Daughen, Kaitlyn Delengowski, Patty Gallagher, Debra Steinberg, Denise Armentani, Stephanie Seely, Melinda Kimball, Kimberly Nelson, Natalie Duffy, Kathryn Warlick, Lorie Strennen

Guest: Matt Mechlin, American Campus Communities Area Manager

- As ACC Area Manager (Chestnut Square, University Crossings, Summit), tries to attend DFA meetings 1-2x/year for feedback and discussion of areas for improvement.
- Co-op friendly leases offered with limited selection of floor plans, increasing numbers available.
- Covid-19 precautions include social distance measures including stickers in elevators and lobbies, signage at front desk/limits to guests, disinfecting lobbies and common areas. Keeping abreast of local regulations, fitness centers and lounges may have a cap on occupancy.
- Working on a process of having minimal contact with students and belongings during move-in.
- ACC will remain open (limited capacity?) during Thanksgiving/Winter break for those students who will need to remain on campus (Co-op, International) similar experience to the current quarantine level.

Kaitlyn:
- Unsure of specifics of notification policy regarding Covid (roomates yes, possibly floormates)
- There is a Covid task force and a Drexel health tracker app for voluntary download and self-reporting of symptoms.
- Covid update page: https://drexel.edu/now/coronavirus/return-campus/
  - All students with symptoms of the virus, or who may have had contact with someone with the virus are asked to contact the Student Health Center. Students can use the COVID-19 email address, the phone line, or the Drexel Health Tracker app to notify the Center. A staff-member will make contact to facilitate testing, if that is needed, and assist the student with isolation. Student Health will also investigate to try to identify where the student may have been exposed to the infection and work to identify additional contacts so they do not spread the virus.
  - We are currently developing plans for the safe isolation and monitoring of students with COVID-19 who live on campus during the time they are contagious. And we are also working on plans for the safe housing for their contacts, who will be quarantined and monitored by the medical staff at our Student Health Center.
  - Faculty and professional staff are advised to seek medical care by calling their primary care doctor and asking to be evaluated for the COVID-19
- For students experiencing financial hardship, there are measures in place on a regular basis: For food-insecurity issues students can contact Dean of Students or Advisors for assistance. This
includes a meal-swipe donation program. Part of Drexel’s Day of Giving includes a Drive to the Student Meal Swipe Donation Program.

Fall 2020:

- Classes start on 9/21 and Welcome Week is scheduled for the week prior. Will look different this year.
- Although there is not guidance from Governor yet regarding group gatherings/restrictions, there are submissions for group events and planning discussions include outdoor events, smaller groups with events scheduled for multiple sessions, virtual experiences, PPE use...
- International students may need to be virtual for Welcome Week experiences in the event that Embassy closures lead to delays in Visas.
- DFA involvement: will know more in August. Possibly hosting resource fair outdoors, and welcome ambassadors at multiple outdoor locations around campus.
- Anticipating students returning to campus Sept-Thanksgiving with hybrid learning, then virtual from Thanksgiving-Winter Break (notifications already emailed)
- Move-in will look very different, but convenience will be a priority.

Commencement Debrief:

- Originally planned to postpone for fall, but then made decision to cancel due to there being no guarantee the University would be able to open in the fall for group gatherings.
- Virtual experiences were planned by each college and students are invited back next year to march at graduation.
- 6/11 – light up the night for Drexel at various locations in Philadelphia.
- Graduates were mailed a Commencement in a Box package which contained cap, tassel, champagne glass. Students were emailed prior to sending, for address confirmation (some mailing delays have occurred).
- Drexel’s CCI college commended for response and remedy to parent and graduate unhappiness with virtual ceremony.
- As panel shared positive experiences with Drexel’s responses to issues, Kaitlyn reinforced that she is always willing to listen to feedback and help find answers.
- Commencement can be viewed here: https://drexel.edu/commencement/

Open Discussion:

- Drexel’s Graduate College will extend a discount to 2020 graduates who wish to pursue a graduate program.
- Support for graduates during job search with limitations for in-person interviews and other impacts due to Covid-19 (reach out to alumni groups, Handshake program)
- Request for representative of Steinbright Career Development Center to join us at next DFA meeting to discuss status of Co-ops (numbers for cancellations, postponements, etc.) and ways they will assist students to minimize the impact Covid-19 has on the Co-op experience.
- Next DFA meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 4th 7:00 pm via Zoom.