

Call to Order 3:05pm

Attendance

Elected Members

Joanne Baird, SHRS;
Harvey Borovetz, Engineering;
Nancy Glynn, Public Health, Dept Epidemiology;
Marylou Gramm, Dietrich, Department of English;
Julius Kitutu, School of Nursing;
Susan Skledar, Elected Member, Pharmacy (*on call*);
Sybil Streeter, Dietrich, Psychology;
Juan Taboas, Dental Medicine;
Sue Wesmiller, Nursing

Student Representatives

Selena Eisenberg, President of College of General Studies Student Government;
David Gau, Rep Post Doc Association

Staff Council

Tricia Connell, Staff Council Representative

Chancellor's Liaison

Penny Semaia, Senior Associate Athletic Director for Student Life (*on call*);
Jennifer Seng, General Counsel

Pro-tem

Robin Kear, University Library System (*on call*)

Senate Liaison

Gosia Fort, Health Science Library System

Office of University Communications

Donovan Harrell

Agenda

- I. Speakers: Beth Stack, Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Financial Services
Anthony Graham, Senior Policy Specialist, Office of Policy Development and Management
1. University's revised policy on PA residential tuition for veterans, international students, etc.
(Policy revisions were mailed to all members in August and September of 2019 for review.)
 - A. Process for updating policy, formation of policy review committee, formal review process.
 - B. Responses to Q & A from SAAA
 - Clarifications about window of time for student notification of/change of resident status

- No risk of retaliatory action by feds in response to policy revision for long-term international students' resident status.
- Appeals process (two levels of appeals) for students denied residency status
- PA residency for PA resident veterans (no matter where they are stationed) is provided
- Benefits for veterans and children of veterans are provided
- Remove gendered language from policy document
- Statistics concerning number of residency appeals:
62,374 applications to Pitt for fall 2019. 40,791 admitted. 12,452 matriculated. Of those 12,452, there were 2,612 notifications regarding residency status; of those 2,612 notifications, 1245 asked for additional information. Of those, 125 petitions. Of those, 11 went to second level of appeals.
- Most students are not surprised by their in- or out-of-state status.
People who appeal generally have special circumstances.
- Residency can be granted to a student trailing a partner, parent, etc. Need to verify parent's/partners' PA employment or residency status to process student residency.
- Why does Pitt not offer a waiver of out-of-state tuition for graduate students as other schools (University of Michigan Public Health) does, which makes us less competitive for admissions? – Future SAAA agenda item.

II. Speakers: Melissa Warthen, Director of New Student Programs, Student Affairs

1. University's first year of online orientation; On-campus Panther Connect program; Welcome Week

A. Online Pitt Start orientation for incoming first-year Pitt students

- Built by Admissions, Financial Aid, and Student Affairs with Advantage Design Group
- Customized to each student's personal education program and academic school
- 95 screens of content divided into 7 modules: welcome, academics, student resources, paying for college, student engagement, campus safety, next steps.
- Anyone can log in: students, parents, etc. as guests to get a preview
- Checklist of things to do: contact advisor, obtain ID card, etc.
- List of items of interest at the end of each module so student can click and learn more; linked to announcements, resources
- FAQs. Student can insert a new question and we can answer and add it to the FAQ.

B. Outcomes

- 96% of first-year matriculated students completed this online orientation.
(130 out of 4,084 did not complete it.)
- 99% of first-year matriculated students were enrolled for fall courses.
- 88% agree or strongly agree that they were made aware of next steps such as making an advising appointment, completing housing contract, receiving Pitt id.
- 80% agree helpful info; 88% agree content was easy-to follow; 81% know what is expected; 86% positive experience; 93% did not experience technical difficulties

C. 2020 plans to improve accessibility for people of various abilities, for international students and for transfers.

D. Q & A about Online Pitt Start orientation

- Is there any student interaction on the online orientation? (No.)
- Are there plans to roll this out to regional campuses? (Not presently. Transfer students are next on the docket, but we are thinking about regional campuses and the specific design they would need.)
- Level of accessibility now? (All videos are close captioned.)
- Do Pathfinders still work with orientation? (Panther Connect and first-year mentors are the ones engaged and have taken over the roles of Pathfinders.)

E. Panther Connect

- 2-day on campus experience for 864 first-year students across six sessions
- \$155 to attend. Fee waived for 86 students -- anyone with financial need, Pell grants
- 28 hours of interaction
- 25 first-year mentors
- 93% said they would recommend this experience.
- Goal is to increase Panther Connect registration by 50% in year two.

F. Welcome week for new and transfer students one week before classes

- August 19-25. More than 150 different programs and events during this week to enhance connection to campus.

G. Q & A about Panther Connect and Welcome Week

- Do students see advisors during the 2-day Panther Connect visit? (No.)
- What percentage spoke to an advisor during Welcome Week? (Not known. Different schools require or don't require contact with advisor before course registration.)
- How will the academic outcomes of these new orientations be measured? (The plan is to look at grades and talk to advisors about scheduling outcomes.)
- How can we take advantage of "captured" new first-years to get them into conversation with their advisors? We have so few advisors per first-year students in Dietrich.
- How will you maintain the mentor-student ratio if you increase Panther Connect attendance by 50%? (Working on that.)
- Can the orientation define what our student body believes?
For example, a Pitt student is one who works hard, plays hard, open to diverse points of view, etc? Core values?

III. Next meeting: Tuesday, October 15, 3 – 4 pm, Sennott Square room 4127.

Meeting adjourned: 4:20