
Westchester Administrative Staff Council Meeting

March 3, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 A.M. Michele Camardella welcomed everyone.

Guest Speakers:

Niki Fjeldal, Associate Director, Orientation and Transitions, Student Development and Campus Activities

Heather Novak, Associate Director, Center for Community Action & Research

From PowerPoint

First – Generation (First Gen) describes a student from a family which neither parent went to/or graduated from college.

One in six U.S. college students are first gen; over 40% of Pleasantville students are first gen.

First Gen student tend to be of lower socioeconomic status, have a harder time transitioning to college and report receiving less emotional support and information from their parents.

Many talk about feeling alienated from the world they came from after going to college. It's important not to leave that world behind, but don't let it prevent you from achieving all that you want to. Find ways to connect with people close to you and help them to see why college is important to you.

The Pace First Generation Initiative was a directive from Susan Maxam. A social for First Gen students was held to build community and was successful. First Gen faculty and staff joined students to share their experiences and support them.

Next Plan/Steps

- Week of Welcome – First –Generation Social
- Follow –up – First Generation session in October and January/February
- First-Gen session during Family Weekend
- Additional Passive Programming/Stories

All can volunteer to help with events - If you would like to be part of the conversation there are meetings Wednesday, March 8th and Monday, April 3rd at 12:15 PM during common hour – Miller 22.

Q: What is the percentage of First-Gen residential and commuter students?

A: It's a mix, a lot start as commuter students then transition to residential.

Q: How do you deal with parents with language and cultural barriers?

A: There is a family newsletter, we keep in contact with family that come to orientation. We are currently looking into newsletter in Spanish.

Q: As an adjunct professor in New York, I see a lot of students that just came to the States.

A: In Pleasantville, we do not have the same numbers of students that just came to the country.

Q: Do we know the retention statistics of First –Gen students?

A: Problem with data is that we do not know if we're capturing all First-Gen population. We're looking into this. The program helps with Pace Path initiatives.

Q: Have the numbers of First-Gen students increased or decreased?

A: This year there was a 48% increase.

Treasurer's Report: under \$4,900; do not know if we're getting encumbered funds.

February 2017 Meeting Minutes approved.

Meeting Adjourned 10:08 AM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa Faillace.