Graduate Student Senate

General Assembly Meeting
November 13, 2019
Packard 416

ingss@lehigh.edu
Agenda

- Food Insecurity, GSS Diversity & Inclusion Committee
- University Productions
- Lindsay Kerr, Office of Development and Alumni Relations
- Dr. Alan Snyder, VP and Associate Provost for Research and Graduate Studies
- Announcements
- Open Floor
Let’s Talk Food.

Look out for the email coming this afternoon & share your story!

Food Insecurity on Campus

- Conversation happening since Winter 2018
- Newer flyer format (more approachable)
- Qualitative portion of survey about food access and insecurity
- Food insecurity looks different for different people
- Want to use the qualitative data to richen the quantitative data
- Narratives will be anonymously featured (if given permission) in an event in the Spring to show them to Lehigh admin
- Look for email later today about it
University Productions

- ThirdSpace Committee
- Kendall Prime
- Matthew Gunton

- Opportunity for folks who normally don’t get together to engage in shared conversation and dialogue
- Grad students recommend Kendall and Matthew attend one of the Tuesday 10AM morning breakfasts to spread the word
Lindsay Kerr

● Associate Director, Young Alumni Engagement
● Office of Development and Alumni Relations
● Lehigh Crowdfunding

Crowdfunding - Lindsay Kerr

● Using a crowdfunding model for various issues related to graduate students (potentially use that for the Food Insecurity initiative)
● Share the online website with GSS
● Help use the Resource Toolkit as well to fund varying projects

Questions

● Is it just a platform for students at Lehigh can donate to?
  ○ Target audience is more for folks with established careers
  ○ These are for people who can give smaller incremental donations to the project

● Is there a set date of when donations would come in?
  ○ Upcoming dates to remember
  ○ Spring Applications open: Wednesday, Nov. 20
  ○ Applications due by Monday, Feb. 3, 2020
  ○ Final selections: Friday, Feb. 7
  ○ Spring Burst Start: Friday, Feb. 14
  ○ Spring Burst End: Friday March 27

● Is anything disqualifiable?
  ○ Can’t raise money for a third party project
  ○ Need to name what account it goes to (Has to be a recognized Lehigh
● Apply to have the project chosen to be put on the platform. How many get selected?
  ○ Trying a new model now (no longer a rolling application process)
  ○ Would love to have at least 10 projects to get the name out
  ○ If project has already been supported, it probably won’t get accepted again

● Does this get pushed out to alumni?
  ○ Marketing meeting for deeper campaign on this
  ○ Reminder email when students return to campus
  ○ Another reminder before the donations end
  ○ Use your own personal networks with the resources the office provides; can be more effective than coming only from Lindsay’s office

● What’s the range of funds people seek for projects?
  ○ Some only need $1500-2000
  ○ Some need to build a car or more substantial funds (such as $15K)
  ○ Project might set more of a cap that is reasonable
  ○ Might be able to bump the cap up in the future to help the program gain notoriety among alumni
Major issues facing us:

- Enrollment on decline
- Cost in light of family incomes and wealth distribution
- Pending disaggregation and discomponitization in graduate education
  - How many in professional MA programs?
  - Students picking up skills in smaller facets now (bootcamps, etc.) and that impacts degree programs
- Global programs for higher education
  - Offers new choices for students and impacts where new PhDs and Post-Docs go to take jobs

We need to know how to be relevant in light of wider choices students and faculty have

Some people discuss threats, alternatives, etc.

Major point amidst all this is we have a “societally precious function” in what we do

There is an intergenerational role in terms of imagining the future of graduate education

Questions from Alan:

- For those in research-intensive programs, to what degree do you feel you own your intellectual path?
○ If so, what have mentors in graduate programs done to succeed?
○ If not, what have mentors or structures done to interfere with this?
○ Example: How empowered do you feel day-to-day to ask novel questions or pitch new ideas?

● Alan open to discuss other issues such as parking, research, etc.

Questions for Alan:

● Demographics at Lehigh: Lehigh expanding enrollment for UG and Grad students. Is this a problem given that there are fewer kids in high school. Is this an issue of supply and demand?
  ○ Phrase used is “Demographic cliff” or “university apocalypse”
  ○ Lots of moving pieces going on in this expansion, and one of those is tapping into new area of study and inquiry via the College of Health (few schools focusing on this)
  ○ Increase geographical reach domestically and internationally; partnerships in the works in India (20% of humans under 25 are living in India)
  ○ Many would say universities are going to close (small to mid-size regional colleges); others say our percentages are not accurate in terms of high school sizes.
  ○ What does college mean? What do they need? Do they need 4 years, smaller pieces, woven with work?
  ○ Bottom line: strategy is built about “being a survivor,” which means knowing really well what we want to do, and having it be accessible to people

● Someone will be on job market next year, but hears about the troubling state of higher education. What’s their chance on the market?
  ○ We will need college professors and good college professors. Lehigh will have prepared you well.
  ○ What we do is “not ordinary” in terms of how we look at the world
  ○ Lots of ways in which PhDs can be valuable in society, and Lehigh needs to prepare grad students for wild variety downstream
    ■ Not only college professor track
  ○ Shortage in some areas with higher education and professor capacity
  ○ Grad students don’t always necessarily want to stay in USA, and we need to be more open to international tenured positions

● In response to Alan’s earlier question, one student feels he has been empowered in the work he does
  ○ Lehigh is very diverse and powerful, but there are many basic
necessities that haven't been addressed
  Communication is one example. We paint Lehigh as unified, but colleges work independently. Reinforces traditional mindset of education.
  Can’t compare the dynamics of differing colleges, dept, mentor strategies, etc.
  College of Ed. is not intertwined with what other colleges do
  Should we think about the collaboration between these spaces and uniforming standards?
  Need to change mindsets and many programs/professors have rigid ideas of what is available, valuable, or possible
    Alan: communication could be way better and needs to be worked on.
    Consistency of experience and quality is super important.
    Some of it is a generational issues of faculty who are set in their ways and ideas.
      A lot of change is intergenerational.
      One thing Alan is hopeful about is the people are who are assistant and associate professors are adamant about changing and growing.
  We talk about ourselves as a university in one way versus the day-to-day reality. This leads to a differing of philosophies on how we communicate our own identities.

General mood and confidence from graduate students. Humanities grads feel pessimistic.
  Perceived idea of budgets cut for expansion.
  We don’t get a lot of students to teach.
  While other programs are doing quite well, we’re generally pessimistic.
  Alan:
    Some of the holes we’ve dug for ourselves because we’ve seen every problem as a science or engineering problem.
    We didn’t stop to consider people’s needs, behaviors, and consult history for lessons learned.
    Mellon Foundation Funding: properly recentering the Humanities in scholarship at Lehigh
      Hardly any issue or problem we endeavor to do that isn’t either supporting a human need or aspiration
    English department as “thriving in new ways”
    Without the humanities, we’re not a University
    Need to reimagine the subject matter spaces and see if they should be as separated as they are; cultivating levels of literacy for all
    Students in all ways of knowing
Le-Laf Tailgate
Saturday November 23
10am - 12pm
Goodman Stadium

Sign-Up Link in Minutes and GLO Facebook Page
Fall Visibility Campaign

Show off your research!

Chance to win $100 to support academic/career goals!

Opportunity to showcase your work to senior leadership

- [https://forms.gle/TiLNTZd2pnggQWdt6](https://forms.gle/TiLNTZd2pnggQWdt6)
- If interested, send a submission with what you’re doing, how it impacts Lehigh, and why it interests you. We’ll post on SM channels and winner will get $$$ to academic/career goals!
STRATEGIC NETWORKING

Thursday, November 14th
12 - 1 pm (Lunch Provided)
EWFM 379
REGISTER ON HANDSHAKE - Open to All

SPONSORS: Women In Science & Engineering
The Center for Career and Professional Development

Strategic Networking
Tomorrow (Nov 14th)
12-1pm
FML 379
Sponsored by WiSE & CCPD

Register on Handshake

https://app.joinhandshake.com/events/397533/share_preview
Spouses/Partners now have access to Taylor Gym!

Scan QR code for request form
College of Education Student Town Hall

Iacocca Hall, Room E-104
Tuesday, November 19th 2-4pm

Discuss strengths and areas for growth in the College of Education

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScv8NyAJMvxEkfsDf___LPMR___0ex6Xrc3sermAIT0R1QrUoQ/viewform
Game Night & Turkish Tea
Sponsored by the Turkish Student Club
Thursday, November 21
6:30-9:30pm
Packer House Basement
Puppies @ Packer House

Sunday, November 17
Packer House
2-4pm
College of Health Candidates

College of Health Candidates want to meet with grad students!

Meet over lunch to discuss your experiences at Lehigh

Email: jek207@lehigh.edu
Suggestion/Concern Form

Send the E-Board feedback
What issues are you facing as a grad?
Submissions can be anonymous

https://bitly.com/GSSsuggest
https://forms.gle/H45JrxGbJx45qdh7
https://forms.gle/H45JrxGbJx45qdh7
Open Floor

- NLRB comment has been pushed back to December 16
Next Meeting:
December 4, 2019

See you then! :)

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