

Thematic Focus Groups

Each group addressed this set of questions for their assigned topic:

1. How do you see this theme play out at Pitt?
2. What does Pitt do well in this area?
3. What could Pitt do better?
4. How do you see this topic relating to each of the six Plan for Pitt goals?
5. Now that we have more information about this theme, is it important to Pitt's success? Why or why not?

Collaboration and Partnerships

1. Limited collaboration/silos structural impediments
 - Limited rewards or incentives to collaboration
 - varies by departments/unit
 - identity issue—one university vs. 5 autonomous schools
2. Some training
 - Pathways = great model
 - Advising—NIC + Directors
 - HR
 - Fin. Aid
 - Admissions + study abroad
 - UPG community connections
 - Veteran services
3. PGH doesn't collaborate on region campus projects
 - Research and teaching collaboration is extremely limited
 - PGH doesn't recognize collaboration that is happening already
 - Resource allocation is inequitable and harmful, preventing progress
4. Underlies Pitt's ability to reach all six goals
5. Impacts student success + enrollment
 - Accelerates new program development
 - Expands institutional capacity
 - Improves morale, performance, and commitment to Pitt.

Data and Analytics

- Increasing reliance on data and analytics to quote decision-making and assess our effectiveness
- More people have access to data than ever before
- Ask faculty and staff what data we could be missing
 - Question driven data collection

Plan for Pitt 2025

Focus Group Notes

Date: February 7, 2020

Audience: Greensburg

- Pay attention to the data we get
- Data needs to influence action
- Research the needs of the community
- Upon graduating, our students should have skills in data and analytics
- Data will tell us if we accomplished our goals
- Utilizing data decreases the chances of making costly errors
- Review and utilize these skills in coursework

Health and Wellness

1. Workshops for students/education
 - Wellness + resiliency class
 - UPMC wellness incentive + discounted gym membership
 - Life solutions
 - Free counseling
 - Health center
 - Fitness center
 - Faculty and staff awareness + intervention training
 - Participating in “all of us”
 - Programming + activities (blood drives, walks, relays, etc.)
3. More resources for regional campuses
 - Support + encouragement
 - More programs more frequently (pet therapy, gradening)
 - Utilizing community resources and facilities
 - Healthier food choices for commuters
 - Faculty/staff wellness committee at UPG
 - Expand UPMC providers
 - More flexibility + promotion with work/life balance—boost morale
 - Committee for all students focusing on wellness and collaboration
4. Happy and healthy students = better students = ed. Excellence
 - Happy and healthy staff/faculty = better ed. Experiences
 - Cutting edge of advancing knowledge on integrated areas—strengthen communities
 - Study away re: health care in rural, underserved areas
 - Exposing students to different cultures and experiences
 - Develop ties with community + wellness as a culture
 - Preventative medicine
5. Well people = effective people = stronger university
 - We’re only as strong as our weakest link
 - Must practice self-care to promote self-care

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- Ultimately helps with recruitments + retention of students, staff, and faculty

Sustainability

2. Chartwells improvements
 - Rolling out automatic lighting
 - Change in res-hall showerheads
 - Library having books on reserve
 - End-of-year initiatives
3. Reactive instead of proactive solutions
 - Business offices move towards relying less on paper
 - Professors could be greener
 - Need resources (\$) to make sustainability possible
 - Fossil fuels vs. renewable energy
 - Inconsistent implementation of recycling
5. Sustainability saves \$ in the long run