

Plan for Pitt 2025

Focus Group Notes

Date: February 10, 2020

Audience: Johnstown

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. NOT – since we are distant, we seldom have “real” input – and no or little sharing of the good stuff
2. BETTER – faculty center (teaching) – financial aid and “Pell Grant Match”, interns, COOP, study abroad, career services (student)
3. COHESION – “One Pitt” – but this seems to be “One Oakland”. Not much information on regionals in any plan literature
 - Relationships – we need to build the relationships – not always the other. More opportunities, even encouragement would be nice
1. More academic interaction (faculty & students)
 - IT interaction and resources – not just “no”.
 - Resources to update old equipment – support (IT) academic
2. Provide information on opportunities (NSF, NIH) – continue support from Office of Research. UPJ not a player in general
3. Campuses are silos. Sometimes there are administrative silos here and Oakland. More process understanding. Reach out to local schools and businesses
4. Difficult – Need to realize the community that diverse population need to feel welcome do not exist everywhere
5. We support infrastructure streamlining
6. We need to expand faculty in some areas to remain competitive. Everyone in Johnstown needs salary adjustments (an increase)

Data and Analytics

1. How do you see this theme play out at Pitt?
 - Lack of access to data
 - Lack of institutional research office
 - How can “pathways” be helpful?
 - Data training for employees

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3. What could Pitt do better?

- Update analytics system
- Develop a Johnstown data plan
- Develop better system for our IT unit

4. How do you see this topic relating to each of the six Plan for Pitt goals?

- Access to reliable data can help shape personalized services and drive division objectives
- Develop partnerships with organizations – supporting data/analytics
- Develop a data base of volunteer opportunities, internship experiences and employment opportunities
- Help us understand and support diverse populations
- Initiate infrastructure projects to drive data analysis
- Access to and understanding of data that would enhance operation and efficiency across units

5. Now that we have more information about this theme, is it important to Pitt's success? Why or why not?

- Data and Analytics is vital to Pitt's success! It will make us more efficient! Allow us to focus our efforts!

Health and Wellness

- How it plays out at Pitt?
 - Need more resources, staff
 - Availability of facilities during summer is GREAT!
 - Extension of times during academic year
- What Pitt does well
 - Dress-down-Fridays, use of fitness facilities, early dismissals, hiring of special fitness instructor classes
- What Pitt could do better
 - Flex time, any core facility, professional development, cross training, job placement: preparation, on-site physicians for faculty, staff and students, wellness programs to entire campus community – not just those who have UPMC income
- Relation to Pitt goals
 - All initiatives will improve and strengthen the educational and social communities, additional research needed to improve mental and physical wellness
- Importance to Pitt success

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- Yes! Improves physical well-being, mental health, work production, and community, department and university relationships

Sustainability

- How does the theme play out?
 - Pitt's legacy will never change, however, sustainability at the regional level will be a challenge
- Well/Do Better
 - Pitt's brand is remarkable, renowned and collegiate, however we need to create cohesiveness
 - Help students feel like they are going to Pitt and not just a regional campus, similar to a Penn State model
 - Embrace online learning
- Relate to Pitt goals
 - Create unity within Pitt system. Promote positive return on investments despite major. Create more opportunities with enrollment with online learning
 - Need more resources
 - Develop unified brand, collaborate with community members both externally and internally. Promote institutional health by ensuring training, collaboration and removing silos. Focus on creating Pitt pride outside of Pittsburgh
 - Create a global community, by focusing on diversity to include lower socio/economic status
 - Continue to be a renowned research institution
 - Creating a culture to foster longevity and retention of service in faculty and staff
 - Write our institutional narrative by means of one complete and accurate data source, on the Johnstown campus we need an institutional researcher
 - Enhance operational efficiency for a better understanding of what we do and why we do it
 - Evolve technologically as well as to meet our students' expectations