

Plan for Pitt 2025

Workshop Notes

Date: 1/15/2020

Participants: Undergraduate students

Goals Exercise: In this exercise participants broke into groups and discussed the definition of each goal included in the current Plan for Pitt, the outcomes Pitt should try to achieve for each goal in the next 5 years, and what actions Pitt is or could take to achieve those outcomes. Participants then rotated and reacted to the ideas already presented and added additional thoughts. (+ indicates other workshop participants agree with the idea; - indicates disagreement)

Goal 1: Academic Excellence

- Define the goal – What does it mean to you?
 - Leaving Pitt with a high-value degree and a good financial standing
 - Marketable degree
 - Able to study passion
 - Well-rounded perspective
 - Networking!
- Outcomes – What should Pitt try to achieve in the next five years? What does success look like five years from now?
 - Let student debt
 - Diversity in terms of students and courses of study
 - Access to textbooks/educational material (+)
 - Success for vulnerable students (+)
 - Investment in libraries (digitizing, connections) (+)
- Actions – What is Pitt already doing that could help achieve success? What new things could Pitt do?
 - All professors should use a universal site to communicate, grades, assignment etc.
 - Increase accessibility of getting minors, communications among schools with respect to minors/certificates, and create a “self-designed” minor program
 - More comprehensive investment in vulnerable low-income, first gen etc.)
 - Students overall 4 years
 - Ensure that as many AP/IB/CHS courses count possible
 - Stronger connections with common-colleges/branch campus

Goal 2: Research of Impact

- Define the goal – What does it mean to you?
 - Expanding quality research opportunities, making research opportunities more accessible and having these research opportunities really make a difference
- Outcomes – What should Pitt try to achieve in the next five years? What does success look like five years from now?

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- Expand partnerships with research groups abroad/outside of Pitt
- Expand research opportunities in Pittsburgh (++)
- More easy access to research opportunities that are already happening
 - Research fair, professors/grad students presents ideas
 - Update links on pages about research (+)
 - Collaborate with local communities and NGO to help create meaningful research outcomes for those affected by Pitt's presence (+)
- Actions – What is Pitt already doing that could help achieve success? What new things could Pitt do?
 - Already focus on hard STEM research (bio, engineering, chem, physics)
 - Expand for softer science/non-stem majors (+)
 - Update links! (++)
 - Honors college research system is better than other places, expand other places to be more like that (++++)
 - All applicants should be made less work/easier (+)
 - Requirement research training courses (part of W requirement)
ex. Social science research training course, environment research course
 - you can already reach at the professor, make it easier somehow
 - partner with other colleges and research groups around the world (++)
 - Strong partnerships make it easier to find opportunities and apply for opportunities

Goal 3: Strengthen Communities

- Define the goal – What does it mean to you?
 - Build trust between local communities that are affected by Pitt's presence, Pitt students and the entity of Pitt and its ongoing projects
- Outcomes – What should Pitt try to achieve in the next five years? What does success look like five years from now?
 - Increase connections between upper class students and faculty (++)
 - Heavy investment of Pitt in local issues
ex. Air quality, transportation (++)
 - Access to facilitate university resources for non-students (the gym, the libraries, computer labs) (++)
 - Allow students to sublet housing at a discounted rate (+)
 - Invest in sustainable infrastructure
 - Have a class on Pittsburgh history and local issues (++)
 - Subscription to Pittsburgh Post Gazette (++)
 - More active post on registering to vote
 - Housing for seniors(guaranteed)

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- Actions – What is Pitt already doing that could help achieve success? What new things could Pitt do?
 - More volunteer opportunities
 - Offer suggestions for fundraising
 - More connections for local nonprofits, some kind of portal for local nonprofits, install community
 - Include community partners in decision making processes
 - More grants to local nonprofits, less Pitt spending money
 - Philanthropy ed.
 - Advertise events such as Pitt day in Harrisburgh and the #withPitt, #PAW ins campaign

Goal 4: Diversity and Inclusion

- Define the goal – What does it mean to you?
 - Leaving Pitt with a more open mindset than when you entered
 - Making sure the education is accessible and affordable
- Outcomes – What should Pitt try to achieve in the next five years? What does success look like five years from now?
 - More diverse student population
 - More celebrations for cultures
 - More knowledge for all students on DI, regardless of whether they take a course
 - More diverse teaching staff
- Actions – What is Pitt already doing that could help achieve success? What new things could Pitt do?
 - All academic departments should require DI class for graduation (+)
 - Accessible spaces for special interest student groups to meet (+++)
 - Less separate events, more globally focused events
 - More disability accessibility, especially on our hilly campus and construction zones (+)
 - Staff investment in DRS

Goal 5: Embrace the World

- Define the goal – What does it mean to you?
 - Wider perspective (+)
 - Make world more accessible to Pitt and vice versa (+)
 - Address in-state and at of state differences (++)
- Outcomes – What should Pitt try to achieve in the next five years? What does success look like five years from now?
 - Services equipped to handle international students in equal of non-international

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- Travel scholarships for international/at of state students (++)
- Make travel abroad more affordable
- Travel abroad → subsidize for low-income students (++)
- Lower financial costs (++)
- Actions – What is Pitt already doing that could help achieve success? What new things could Pitt do?
 - Diversity study abroad programs (+++)
 - Students organizations → push to embrace diversity and actively include international students (++)
 - More “Pitt-In” programs (++)
 - Working more with the international community in Pittsburgh (+)
 - More scholarship opportunities (+)
 - More international students in the honor college (+)
 - Increase scholarship opportunities to all students (+)

Goal 6: Foundational Strength

- Define the goal – What does it mean to you?
 - Ensuring that educating is a priority just like resourcing
 - Divest (times are changing, Pitt should too)
 - More mental health emphasis
 - Increased accessibility/long term access to health needs
- Outcomes – What should Pitt try to achieve in the next five years? What does success look like five years from now?
 - More student feedback and opportunities to interact/collaborate
 - More diverse professor/faculty (+)
 - More philanthropy education
- Actions – What is Pitt already doing that could help achieve success? What new things could Pitt do?
 - Find gifted/high potential students in vulnerable communities
 - Expand financial aid (++)
 - More philanthropy education
 - More education on the resources that Pitt provides after graduation
 - Partner with local community for sponsorships/scholarships
 - Make sure facilities match needs of students/departments
 - Better investment strategies in industries that are the future and not the past
 - Increase minimum wage at university positions held by students