



DEPAUW UNIVERSITY

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To: Student Government Association
From: Raj Bellani, Dean of Experiential Learning and Career Planning
Date: April 10, 2014
Subject: Hubbard Center Response to *White Paper No. 3*

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to talk with members of the Student Government Association about some of the questions, concerns and desires of the student body as it pertains to the Sophomore Experience. The dialogue was comprehensive and involved many different topics encompassing all the areas that are served by Hubbard Center staff and programming. In the recently published *White Paper No.3*, the Student Government Association lays out a number of projects and initiatives that would address various needs of the student body. Fortunately, we have identified many of these needs as well.

The Hubbard Center is where our students go to develop a plan on how to get the most from their DePauw University experiences, and how to prepare for life after graduation. The Center helps students discover their interests and global perspectives, prepare to achieve their career and post-graduate goals, and connect their classroom lessons and theory with those experiences that position them for success in the workplace and community.

The Hubbard Center piloted multiple new programs last semester, including an Athletic Sophomore Institute session for sports teams that led to 275 student-athletes attending StrengthsFinder workshops; a new workshop series for students interesting in applying for grants, scholarships and fellowships, which helped lead to DePauw students submitting 26 Fulbright applications; and Hubbard Center staff teamed with colleagues across the University during Orientation, the “Dine with Deans” luncheon series and Winter Term group informational gatherings to meet with all members of the first-year class on three separate occasions to inform them of the programming that the Hubbard Center offers. The Center developed a communications plan that includes social media and a YouTube channel featuring interviews of students who have successfully completed internships and studied off-campus. The initial results are promising; 50 more first-year students participated in Winter Term externships this year than in 2013, and we have established some great results as we implement new programs and services that fulfill areas of need for the University and our students.

We have included an overview of the developments during this academic year that impact some of those items brought up in *White Paper No. 3*:

Accessibility

The Hubbard Center has worked on multiple initiatives, including collaborations with departments and offices across the University, to increase accessibility to Hubbard Center programming. These changes have included:

- Students can now access financial aid for Extended Studies off-campus study curricular courses;
- The Center received philanthropic support to provide scholarships to students with demonstrated financial need to study in Europe, Latin America and other parts of the world;
- The Hubbard Center bolstered the Summer Internship Grant Program, which provides stipends for students to pursue unpaid internships in nonprofits, startups and other settings;
- Establishment of the Coquillet Peer Advisers, who provide résumé and cover letter critiques at the Walk-in Advising Bar; the bar also includes Hubbard Center staff members to answer basic questions about Center-related programming;

Alumni Engagement

The Hubbard Center collaborated with the Office of Alumni Engagement on multiple projects to benefit students. These included:

- Providing students access to the online Alumni Directory, enabling students to network with graduates by searching for them based on multiple criteria;
- Developing Orientation programming in which the Class of 2017 met with GOLD alumni from various industries (50 alumni total attended); also a GOLD alum gave a keynote presentation during Orientation on the value of the DePauw education and how to engage with alumni;
- Virtual Networking sessions featuring alumni in the medical field networking with students remotely; alumni in the medical field also met with students during a Winter Term course;
- A piloted series of networking dinners during Winter Term for students to learn more about different career fields from alumni currently in those industries;
- The Center organized lunch during Sophomore Institute for local alumni from Putnam County to participate in a networking lunch with the second-year students;
- The Center is working with the Office of Alumni Engagement to give access to the EverTrue mobile app to students;
- An Alumni Informational Interview event, in which 12 alumni met with 30 students.

Year- Specific Programming

The Hubbard Center created and developed year-specific programming for students, including:

- A collaboration with PNC Bank to create the “Real World” series of workshops for graduating seniors to learn about what to expect after commencement;
- “Dine with Deans” program, in which the Dean of Experiential Learning and Career Planning partnered with other deans to meet and talk with first-year seminar classes;
- MCAT preparation courses designed for juniors, to help them prepare for the medical school application process;
- The Center built on programming for the Sophomore Institute, which provides students with information about networking, seeking internships and additional career-related information,
- The Hubbard Center currently offers many programs through the academic year, such as mock interviews, professional development workshops, off-campus study informational sessions and networking groups, which are geared toward sophomores and juniors.

Communications and Outreach

The Hubbard Center has embarked on a variety of outreach efforts this year, including:

- A partnership with Academic Affairs to create a program during Winter Term dedicated to help students learn more about potential majors of interest; this pilot program taught students more about potential but less popular academic majors;
- Implementation of TigerTracks, a content management system that enables the Hubbard Center to retain employers’ contacts, post job and internship opportunities, highlight key on-campus programs and send targeted messages; students can create and upload their résumé, apply for jobs, and RSVP for events that they find to be of interest, such as on-campus interviews or networking events;
- Implementation of Horizons, the online application system for students to pursue off-campus study; this system also allows for the Hubbard Center to create announcements for students, along with maintain students’ applications in a centralized database;
- Creation of *Hubbard Center Weekly*, which incorporates key job and internship listings, significant program announcements, and the schedule of Hubbard Center events for that particular week; the *Weekly* was designed to keep students performed about the latest items of interest in the Hubbard Center;
- Introduction in the fall of a well-received series of workshops for students interested in applying for grants, scholarships and fellowships; as a result, DePauw submitted 26 Fulbright applications compared to 18 last year.

Academic Initiatives

The Hubbard Center for Student Engagement staff has developed multiple academic-related initiatives this year, including:

- A collaboration with the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University to offer the Liberal Arts Management Program, which will debut during Winter Term 2015;
- Collaboration with the Philosophy Department, which has developed the Pre-Law Course Sequence of classes intended for students interested in pursuing law school; the classes help students develop the skills they will need to be successful in law school;
- A collaboration with academic departments across campus to develop departmentally-endorsed programs for off-campus study; these programs help show students those off-campus opportunities that are most likely to be beneficial for their major.

2014-15 Initiatives

The Hubbard Center will be researching and developing several identified opportunities in the coming year, including:

- Exploring the addition of a web chat function for the Hubbard Center website, which would be similar to the feature provided by Roy O. West Library; this would enable students to ask basic questions of Hubbard Center programs and events from their laptop
- Implementing drop-in office hours for advising starting next fall; this would enable students to receive advising, ask general Hubbard Center questions and receive résumé and cover letter critiques, including from Center professional staff members at set times through the week
- Creation of additional alumni mentoring programs to teach students more about what to expect after graduation, including how they can take advantage of opportunities at DePauw to prepare them for their personal and professional post-graduate goals
- Revision of Sophomore Institute programming to include how students can pursue internships

Our Commitment to Students

We remain committed to developing the programs that address our students' greatest needs while preparing them for life after DePauw. In the past year we have developed multiple programs to better prepare students for their next pursuits following graduation. We also have identified more opportunities that will benefit students further, and we will continue to develop those programs as well. We remain committed to ensuring DePauw graduates head into the world as best-prepared as they can be, with access to opportunities and programs during their undergraduate years that enable them to maximize their potential.