Campus Compact Civic Action Plan
Student Feedback on HWS - Geneva Partnerships
HWS Civic Action Plan Student Research Assistant, Allison Koch, WS’17
Hobart and William Smith Colleges

HWS CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Interfraternity Council (IFC) 12 students
William Smith Congress 15 students
Hobart Student Government 15 students
HWS Club Sports 3 students

POSITIVE FEEDBACK

As a place-based institution, students, faculty and staff bring business to local restaurants and shops downtown.

Students in education classes have great opportunities with Geneva children and students.

Students raise awareness through fundraising and tabling events.

There are a volunteering opportunities, on campus and off.

A lot of people try to embody HWS’s motto, to “live lives of consequence”.

Honors societies recognize students who are actively involved.

Service Learning classes are beneficial by helping the community partner.

We challenge social and political inequalities through
1. Political protests
2. Campus walkouts
3. Cultural clubs and organizations
4. Turbo Vote
5. America Reads/America Counts/Boys and Girls Club

CAMPUS COMPACT CIVIC ACTION PLAN PRINCIPLES

1. We empower our students, faculty, staff, and community partners to co-create mutually respectful partnerships in pursuit of a just, equitable and sustainable future for communities beyond the campus - nearby and around the world.

2. We prepare our students for lives of engaged citizenship with the motivation and capacity to deliberate, act, and lead in pursuit of the public good.

3. We embrace our responsibilities as place-based institutions, contributing to the health and strength of our communities - economically, socially, environmentally, educationally, and politically.

4. We harness the capacity of our institutions - through research, teaching, partnerships, and institutional practice - to challenge the prevailing social and economic inequalities that threaten our democratic future.

5. We foster an environment that consistently affirms the centrality of the public purposes of higher education by setting high expectation for members of the campus community to contribute to their achievement.

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

We challenge social and political inequalities through
1. Political protests
2. Campus walkouts
3. Cultural clubs and organizations
4. Turbo Vote
5. America Reads/America Counts/Boys and Girls Club

WHAT ARE NEXT STEPS?

After meeting with President Gearan to review the progress of the HWS Civic Action Plan, he emphasized that “collaboration is imperative,” and that “communication should be easier now than it’s ever been” (Personal comment, President Gearan). He continued to describe how institution-community collaboration is exciting and new, and that the Civic Action Plan is timely now, given what is happening in higher education (Personal comment, President Gearan).

By gaging students’ ideas and perceptions regarding civic engagement and community partnerships, we must mobilize our energy as an institution and implement tangible changes that will carry ourselves and our institution forward. By developing informal programs or holding regular meetings, we can more successfully cluster common interests to make more significant and effective changes.

We wanted to collect data as inclusively and transparently from students. The Civic Action Plan committee will meet this summer to present these ideas to our new President, Dr. Gregory Vincent, H’83. During President Gearan’s time here, he has solidified the vision for civic engagement and community partnerships. We are excited to collaborate with Dr. Gregory Vincent, H’83 and see how he will lead us moving forward.

HWS students do not leave a certain radius, to extend beyond our campus’s borders.

HWS students should work to build a more diverse group of faculty and staff. Professors are typically white males, and students who do not relate may feel uncomfortable or disconnected.

Our location impacts our social interactions, and increases the divide between the HWS community and the Geneva Community.

Lives of consequence are not counted equally.

HWS students can easily slide under the rug and graduate without participating in any volunteering activities, community service or Service Learning classes. Students need to be held to a higher standard for civic engagement involvement.