



United for the Future

Merger Transition Team Update

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE DREXEL UNIVERSITY AND MCP HAHNEMANN UNIVERSITY COMMUNITIES • JULY 2, 2002

ONE AND ALL:

By the time you read this, M-day will have arrived, and we will already be celebrating the birth not just of the new University, but also of the Nation. Fireworks for all!!

I want to start this newsletter by thanking the dozens of people who have been identifying the issues, discussing the options, crafting the solutions, putting out the fires, de-bugging the proposals, writing the letters, creating the designs, negotiating the deals, confirming the details... and everyone else who has had to step up and do more while those involved in merger implementation were having their time and talents used elsewhere.

There is more work to be done, and there is no doubt that we will hit a few more speedbumps along the way, but the Merger Implementation Team has already checked off more than eight pages of to-do's on the merger punchlist, so we know success is assured!

(But keep those questions and suggestions coming! Merger@Drexel.edu...)

Well done to all!

Tobey Oxholm
Chair, Merger Transition Team

care, health care with business, public health with public policy and so on. And third, with our alumni/ae locate all across the country and around the globe, there will be more opportunities for co-op experiences, for employment, and for networking.

I am currently taking classes at Drexel and plan to transfer my credits to MCP Hahnemann for the Humanities and Sciences Program. I was told that my 3-credit courses at Drexel will be only worth 2 credits toward MCP programs. Is that true?

This is exactly the type of new opportunity that now exists as a result of the merger: programs offered at MCPHU are now available to Drexel students, and vice versa. The difference between quarters (at Drexel) and semesters (at MCPHU) will cause a re-calculation of credits. Since Drexel works on a quarter credit system, and MCP Hahnemann works on semesters, you would have to multiply your number of Drexel (quarter) credits by .75 to get the total of semester credits. Therefore, a 3-credit quarter class is equal to 2.25 semester credits. To find out exactly how many of your credits will transfer, please contact the program advisor.

Will the fulltime undergraduate and graduate students of the College of Nursing and Health Professions and School of Public Health be able to take Drexel courses without additional cost?

As of July 1, all students are Drexel students, and all courses will be Drexel courses. There will not be any "additional cost" for CNHP students to take classes in Arts & Sciences just because they were once "Drexel" courses, or for Engineering students to take classes in Public Health just because they were once "MCPHU" courses. Because of technological difficulties, the databases will not be able to merged right away, and this will make for a few speedbumps as we transition; but your academic advisor will be able to help smooth the way.

Update: The NEW Drexel University Shuttle

The new Dragon Route began service yesterday, July 1st. The schedule is posted at <http://www.drexel.edu/facilities>. The shuttle will run 5:45 a.m. to 7:45 p.m., and will make stops at Nesbitt (33rd and Market) and Bellet (15th and Race), where there will be an easy interchange with the Tenet shuttle to the Henry Avenue MCP and Queen Lane Medical campuses. Copies of the schedule are being posted and distributed at the University City Main and Center City Hahnemann campuses.

Is there any place that students thinking about coming here can get information about the merger?

Yes! There are a couple of places applicants can go. On the Drexel side, they can visit <http://www.drexel.edu/ecm/merger.html>, and there is also a link from the Health Sciences side to <http://www.drexel.edu/hs>. Soon there will be links from the Drexel Table of Contents "Health Sciences" section, on the "Drexel Index" page, and on the "General Information for Health Sciences Students" page.

FAQs

What will this merger mean for me as a student?

The answers to this question will come with time, but we can think of three things right away. First, the value of your degree will increase since our newly merged University will join the 51 private universities classified by the Carnegie Foundation as Doctoral/Research Universities-Extensive, where our peers are Carnegie-Mellon, MIT, Caltech, and the University of Pennsylvania. Second, we expect there will be more courses, programs, and opportunities for students to pursue in their field of interest because of the obvious synergies linking high tech with health

I am in the United States on a visa. Do these changes affect my visa?

Yes, but thanks to the assistance and support we have received from the Immigration and Naturalization Service and from the Department of State, things are under control. All international students, scholars, and employees whom we know to have visas are being sent a letter from the University's General Counsel, advising them of the changes and confirming that all appropriate agencies have been notified. If you do not receive this letter in the near future, you should contact PHEC's Director of International Student Services, Esther Williams (phone: 215-762-7395 or e-mail: etw24@drexel.edu). Existing visas need not be changed; changes can be made the next time you get a visa. For those who will be becoming Drexel employees on January 1, you have plenty of time to submit the proper paperwork to get it approved. Finally, those who are in the process of seeking permanent residency in the United States based on their employment are urged to contact your own lawyers, or Esther Williams, for further information, as you should probably bring the changes to the attention of the INS as soon as possible.

Important Note: Some students/scholars/employees may have an old, old name on their visas – one student reports that his, issued in 1966, is in the name of “Medical College of Pennsylvania and Hahnemann University.” If your visa has a name older than MCPHU on it, you should contact Ms. Williams so that a more specific letter of explanation can be written for you. But as long as you have been maintaining status and has a valid I-20 with a current travel signature from Ms. Williams, you shouldn't have any problems re-entering the country if you leave.

Update: The New 40-hour/Week Requirement

We have received lots of comments, questions and suggestions (not all of them printable) as a result of the briefings that HR has done about the 40-hour work-week requirement that is going into effect on September 21. As a result of this feedback, the University is going to explore the suggestions that have been made about how to make the requirement more manageable and flexible for a workforce with diverse demands on their non-employment hours. HR expects to be able to develop some guidance for office managers over the summer, and we will keep you advised. The bottom line, though, is that to make this new university as good as it can be, it has to have the full commitment of everyone, all at the same level. If the university does well, we will do well; and this first year is especially important for it to do well! (PS: You can stop sending us e-mails now ...)

Where will my academic records be kept after the merger?

The same places they are now! All academic records are maintained by the Registrar. For medical students, the records will continued to be kept at the Queen Lane Medical Campus; for CNHP and SPH students, they will be kept at the Center City Hahnemann Campus; and for everyone else, at the University City Main Campus. They are kept there for two years, and then the physical files are sent off into the mountains for safekeeping. The Registrar will have access to electronic records all the time.

Will everyone have access to all electronic databases at all MCPHU and Drexel libraries?

Everyone will have access to most, but probably not all, of the libraries' many databases. The goal is to provide universal access to all databases. Even so, we have to look at the cost, too. For databases that are of inter-

est to a very small number of people, the license fees we would have to pay to give access to everyone might not be worth it. In those cases, we will offer the databases to specific user groups. The process of reviewing the licenses is going forward now.

Update: Use of Drexel facilities

We have now confirmed that the DAC (Daskalakis Athletic Center) will be available to all MCPHU grad students and medical students without additional charge, just as it is for all MCPHU undergraduates. This policy will apply during the 2002-03 academic year, and will be evaluated once we get a better sense of actual use. Remember, the YMCAs at Queen Lane and Center City will continue to be available for students at those campuses.

Will MCPHU offices be open or classes held on Columbus Day and President's Day?

Yes. These are holidays at Drexel; they are not holidays at MCPHU. As of July 1, they remain holidays at Drexel and not holidays at MCPHU, so MCPHU offices will be open. MCPHU employees will be getting two new personal days, so they might be able to use those days on those holidays, but whether they can do so will be up to the supervisor of each office, since each office must remain open with at least a skeleton staff. As for students, classes and clinical days have already been scheduled for those two dates, so they will not be holidays this coming year; but the academic schedule will be adjusted next year (2003-04) so that classes and clinical assignments for students will not be held on those holidays.

What about Valentine's Day?

Forgeddaboutit. All offices will be open.

Will tuition change for MCPHU programs, since Drexel's tuition is higher?

No, we don't anticipate changing tuition rates for current students from what has been published in the comptroller's tuition and fee rates schedule for academic year 2002-2003. For the past several years, Drexel tuition for continuing students has increased between 3.5 and 4.5 percent annually and we anticipate the same level of increase in future years.

When will MCPHU employees be able to participate in the pre-tax transportation benefit available to Drexel employees?

These benefits will be available to all MCPHU employees starting January 1, 2003, when the benefit plans change.

Update: Can You See It??

The Drexel Dragon is now flying in Center City!!! You can see it atop the Bellet Building (15th and Race) from City Hall, from the Expressway, and, we hope, from Temple! The flag raising ceremony also made the local news at 6:00 pm last night!

Questions?

If you have questions, e-mail them to merger@drexel.edu, and we will answer them as best and as quickly as we can!