



Parent Council Handbook

Mission

Grand Canyon University Mission Statement

GCU is a missional, Christ-centered university with an innovative and adaptive spirit that addresses the world's deep needs by cultivating compassionate Christian community, empowering free and virtuous action and serving others in ways that promote human flourishing.

Through academic excellence, the university equips students with knowledge of the Christian worldview, instilling in them a sense of purpose and vocational calling that enables them to be innovative thinkers, effective communicators, global contributors and transformative leaders who change their communities by placing the interests of others before their own.

STATEMENT ON THE INTEGRATION OF FAITH AND WORK

Parent Council Mission Statement

Affirming the vision of Grand Canyon University (GCU) as a premier Christian university, the GCU Parent Council seeks to serve and support GCU and its parents, families and students.

Structure

- The Parent Council is a select group of volunteers who are GCU parents (parents of full-time, traditional undergraduate students)
- Interested volunteers complete an application form and interview with the Parent Council Selection Committee and Welcome Programs staff
- Selected members will reflect the Christian heritage of the University and a congruent stance on GCU-related issues.
- Members will serve for two years provided that (1) their student is enrolled during the time of service, and (2) they continuously meet all Parent Council expectations and policies. It is optional to serve additional years with approval from Welcome Programs staff and the Parent Council Selection Committee.
- The Parent Council serves as an advisory council; not a policy-making entity.

Responsibilities

- **Communication:** connect to parents and families through phone calls, email, in-person.
- **Lope Family Groups:** support Lope Family Group initiatives by leading a Lope Family Group and providing oversight and accountability for other Group Facilitators.
- **Events:** assist with preparations, volunteer coordination, and leadership during Family Weekend and other events.
- **Bilingual initiatives:** Bilingual members will create and support various initiatives for Spanish-speaking families, including Parent & Family Orientation, Spanish-only Lope Family Groups, and some translation
- **Parent Council Selection:** support logistics for the Parent Council Application process by reviewing applications, participating in zoom interviews, and selecting the Council members.

Expectations

- Serve as ambassadors of GCU, representing the University well both in-person and online. Understand and adhere to the University's Social Media Policy and be reminded that social media conduct should honor Christ and set an example for current GCU families.
- Meet with parents and represent their needs to Department of Welcome Programs.
- Understand the Parent Handbook and FERPA and how to counsel parents within their boundaries
- Participate in monthly scheduled conference calls and 2 in-person meetings on GCU's main campus
- Lead a Lope Family Group in your local community and pray for GCU students and families
- Advise and assist in coordinating Lope Family events and programs and other University events, including
 - Welcome Week (limited involvement during the last week in August)
 - Family Weekend & Parent Council meeting (weekend in October)
 - Lope Family Serve Day & Parent Council meeting (weekend in February/March)
- Local Parent Council members may be invited to attend occasional in-person meetings and events or advise on local Phoenix resources for out-of-state families

Additional Information

Apparel

Parent Council members will be issued a Lope Family polo shirt and nametag and will be expected to wear them at Lope Family events on campus.

Travel

Parent Council members are eligible for a variable travel stipend for Family Weekend and Lope Family Serve day. This amount is awarded based on distance and overall travel expenses, however reimbursement for the full cost of travel is not guaranteed. Stipends are allotted per person, per trip and requires the completion of a W-9 form and submission of travel receipts.

Communication

Parent Council members will facilitate communication with GCU parents and family members of full-time, traditional undergraduate students and manage an assigned GCU email account to be used when communicating as a Parent Council member. Parent Council members are expected to check this account regularly and respond to emails by the next business day.

Follow-Up

Parent Council members are expected to use discretion around sensitive topics. If family members have questions, concerns, or feedback that require a response from the University, Parent Council members will advise the individual to send an e-mail to LopeFamily@gcu.edu

Policies and Procedures

If a Parent Council member fails to abide by the expectations, a warning or termination may be necessary as deemed appropriate by the Student & Family Development Manager.