MEMO

TO: Mike Kelly, Vice-Chair of Board of Trustees, and Jimmy Knight, Director of the Cothran Center for Career Readiness

CC: Tony Floyd, President of MHU, Danielle Hagerman, Executive Assistant to the President

FROM: Elizabeth Whiting Pierce, Assist. Prof. of Philosophy & Dir. of the Center for Ethics

DATE: December 20, 2019

SUBJECT: Board of Trustee-Student Mentoring Program Initial Proposal

SUMMARY: This memo outlines what a Board of Trustees-Student Mentoring Program could look like at MHU. It draws heavily on [College of Charleston’s model](https://trustees.cofc.edu/increasing-board-engagement/Board%20of%20Trustees%20Mentoring%20Program.php).

**Background of the Proposal**

In September 2019, Mike and Melinda Kelly met with Elizabeth Whiting Pierce to discuss the Center for Ethics’ work at MHU. During that conversation, Mr. Kelly asked Dr. Pierce to research what a Board of Trustees-Student Mentoring Program might look like at MHU. Mrs. Kelly asked that Dr. Pierce include a contact schedule, so that trustees and students would understand the scope of the commitment the program would entail. This memo responds to those requests.

**Strategic Plan Alignment**

This program would support Strategic Plan goal II.1 to “[s]trengthen our commitment to…career development for the 21st century.” It also supports goal III.2 to “[i]ncrease opportunities for interaction between students and faculty/staff outside of classrooms and offices” (provided MHU counts BOT members as “staff” because of their heavy professional and personal commitments to MHU).

**Basic Features of the Program**

* Institutional home: Cothran Center for Career Readiness
* Scope of commitment for trustees
  + 1 academic year
  + Fill out questionnaire to match trustee with student
  + Attend brief mentorship training at beginning of the academic year (held on scheduled MHU BOT meeting day)
  + Engage with student 5 times per year, 3 times in events scheduled by MHU staff on BOT meeting days, 2 times in settings scheduled independently by the trustee and student. See below for “Engagement Activity Ideas.”
  + Fill out brief feedback survey at the end of the academic year
* Scope of commitment for students
  + 1 academic year
  + Engage with trustee 5 times per year (see above)
  + Communicate promptly, clearly, and politely with trustee to schedule 2 engagement activities.
  + Fill out brief feedback survey at end of the year

**Engagement Activities Ideas (scheduled by mentor and student)**

* Attend MHU musical performance, game, lecture, etc.
* Attend an event of an organization to which the trustee belongs, ex. Rotary breakfast or fundraising dinner
* Volunteer at an organization of the trustee’s or student’s choice
* Schedule phone conversation to discuss student’s summer internship plans, review resume, etc.

**Program Goals for Students**

* Develop the habit of seeking professional and personal guidance throughout their lives
* Expand students’ horizons of professional and personal possibility
* Extend students’ professional and personal networks
* Learn how to mentor others
* Better understand trustees’ perspective and experience of MHU

**Program Goals for Trustees**

* Better understand students’ needs, expectations, motivations, and strengths
* Better understand students’ experiences at MHU
* Enjoy student’s company and seeing the results of their investments in MHU