

Center for Practical Ethics

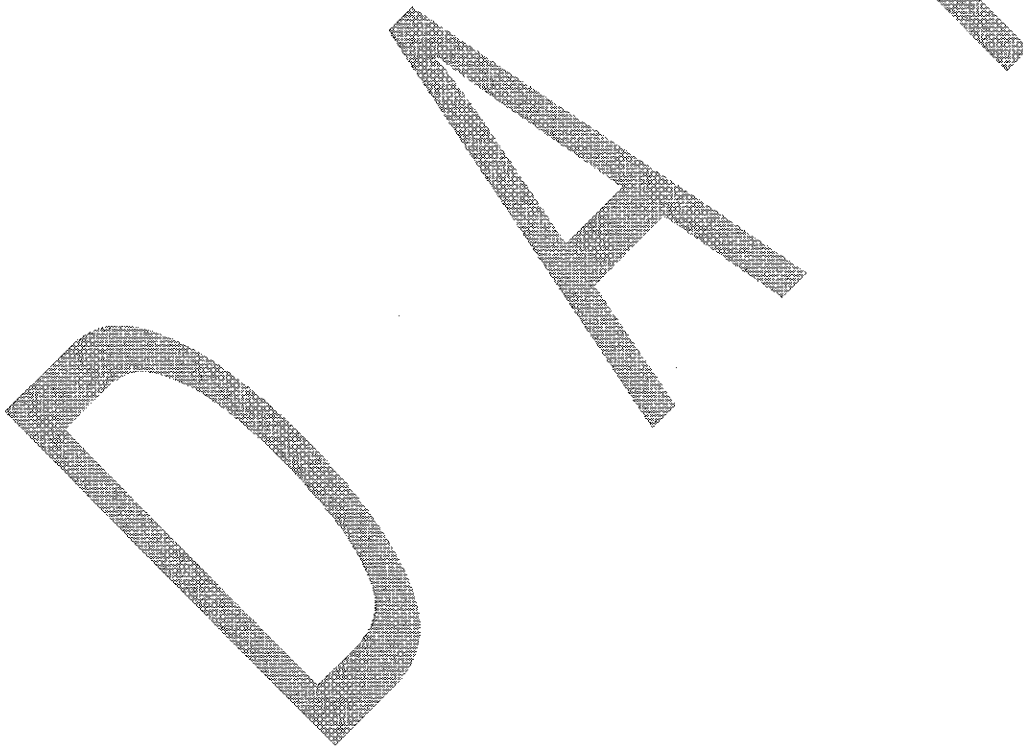
Director

[insert name]

Center for Practical Ethics

Inspired and informed by the University's commitment to "transforming engaged learners into ethical citizens," the Center for Practical Ethics promotes the study and teaching of practical ethics by advocating for the integration of ethics in and across academic disciplines. The Center's mission is to make the examination and practice of ethical decision making an integral part of undergraduate and graduate education at Mars Hill University. To work toward this goal, the Center facilitates and supports student and faculty explorations of ethics as a field of study and as a practical activity.

Center for Practical Ethics activities are organized around the following: Ethics Across the Curriculum initiatives, faculty development, Ethics Bowl, an Ethics Certificate program, and community outreach.



Here is a sketch of future Center activities/efforts/programs→

Ethics Across the Curriculum

FYS 112

Ethics-intensive (EI) courses

Ethics Certificate Program

Brochures, cases, manuals, and sponsored scholarship

Faculty Development

Workshops (EAC, Ethics in the disciplines, FYS 112, Pedagogical ethics, etc.)

Faculty Fellows (develop EI-designated courses, produce ethics-related scholarship, provide leadership in other areas of Center activities)

Ethics Bowl

Sponsor and coach a Collegiate Ethics Bowl team

Host a regional High School Ethics Bowl competition

Community Outreach

Ethics Lecture Series

Ethx on the Hill (TED-style presentations on ethics-related topics)

Other Areas of Interest

Highlight and facilitate exchanges between the traditional liberal arts and professional programs

Questions to address

Why a Center?

Why a Center for Practical Ethics?

How is this Center similar to/different from existing Centers on campus?

How will it be funded and staffed?

Sketch for an Ethics Certificate Program

- FYS 112 or comparable introduction to ethics course (3 credit hours)
- Two Ethics-intensive (EI) courses (6 credit hours)
- One E-contract course or "Adaptable" course – see Women's Studies (3 credit hours)
 - Will need to define an E-contract and work out the logistical issues. Possible projects: develop an ethics case, prepare a research proposal, case analysis, etc.
- Community Engagement or Ethics Research Project (3 credit hours)
 - Community Engagement
 - Community-engagement project
 - Community-based research project
 - Community-engagement (CE) course
 - Ethics Research Project
 - Directed Readings
 - Independent Study
- Integration Essay (1 credit hour)
 - Goal: examine how the student's program of study explored/connected/integrated ethics across the curriculum
 - 4-5 pages with public presentation
 - The essay could highlight and reflect on already existing work (e.g., electronic portfolio)

Total Credit Hours: 16

Ethics Certificate Resource Links

Ethics and Leadership

Bridging Disciplines Programs (University of Texas)

Ethics & Leadership in Business Requirements (University of Texas)

Note: This is a good model for our program (design, scope, curricular design, connections with community engagement, advising, marketing, etc.)

Civic engagement/community engagement (with at least ethics language in mission/objectives)

Drury University

Note: Nice example of statement of purpose, vision, and goals. The Ethics "Labs" (Engaging Ethics in Personal and Professional Life and Ethics Incubator) are also of interest.

Arizona State, Leadership, Ethics & Service Certificate Program

Note: This is described on its website as a "one of a kind leadership program." It is a competitive, cohort-based program. The contact person for the program, Mary Drago, frequently attends the SEAC conference.

Duke University/Kenan Institute

Note: The Kean Institute offers both a course-based and experiential certificate program. The Experiential Ethics Certificate requires "two different experiential components totaling 450 hours of work" (150 hours of research plus 300 hours of community-based field experiences).

Alaska/Anchorage

Note: This is a Community Engagement Certificate program. It is worth reviewing to see how the program is structured and how it is explained. For example, "[t]he Certificate appears on student transcripts and attest to the students' engagement in campus and community life. Future employers value the broad civic perspective and practical skills and knowledge of Certificate graduates."

Course-based (no community engagement required)

Webster University, Certificate in Practical and Interdisciplinary Ethics

Note: This looks more like a minor than a certificate program. It is a way to provide students with an opportunity to "identify a concentration in the study of ethics."

Oregon State, Certificate in Applied Ethics

Northern Illinois University

American University, Certificate in Applied Ethics and Professional Responsibility

University of Colorado

Questions to Consider

How is a certificate program different from a minor?

What is being *certified* here?

What is in it for students? Will there be anything on the transcript? What about other forms recognition?

How is this model similar to or different from other ethics-related certificate programs?

What about possible connections with Student Life/Development?

Would this program also be available for graduate students in education and business?

Who will administer the program?

Who will write (and approve) language for the catalog and the website?

How will the program be marketed (students, faculty, advisors, staff, prospective students, alumni, potential donors, etc.)?

What sort of information issues do we need to consider (Self-Service, connecting with advisors, etc.)?

Are there other sources of potential funding?

When do we reach a "critical mass" of EI and CE courses to enable us to move ahead with the program?

Does this need to go to a committee or the faculty for approval?

RRR

[Proposed Catalog Copy]

Center for Practical Ethics

Director

Barry Sharpe

Center for Practical Ethics

Inspired and informed by the University's commitment to "transforming engaged learners into ethical citizens," the Center for Practical Ethics promotes the study and teaching of practical ethics by advocating for the integration of ethics in and across academic disciplines. The Center's ultimate goal is to make the examination and practice of ethical decision making an integral part of undergraduate and graduate education at Mars Hill University. To work toward this aspirational goal, the Center endeavors to increase opportunities for students and faculty to explore ethics both as a field of study and as a practical activity.

Center for Practical Ethics activities are organized around the following: Ethics Across the Curriculum initiatives, faculty development, Ethics Bowl, and community outreach.

Here is how I see the future work of the Center developing→

Ethics Across the Curriculum initiatives

FYS 112

Ethics-intensive (EI) courses

Ethics Certificate Program

Faculty development

Workshops

Faculty Fellows (to develop EI-designated courses or provide leadership in other areas of Center activities)

Ethics Bowl

Sponsor and coach a Collegiate Ethics Bowl team

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Other Areas of Interest

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EAC Director Job Description (Draft) – January 2014

Summary

The Director of Ethics across the Curriculum (EAC) oversees the planning and implementation of EAC initiatives. The Director's primary responsibilities include: serving as course coordinator for FYS112 and campus coordinator for the Mars Hill Ethics Bowl team, directing faculty development efforts to support ethics-related courses and research initiatives, planning and coordinating an annual Ethics Lecture series, developing and maintaining a process for designating courses as Ethics-intensive, and developing and overseeing the operation of an Ethic Certificate program.

Course Coordinator for FYS 112

Recruit instructors, manage assessment efforts, provide coordination among the sections during each semester (including weekly team meetings), develop and maintain a Moodle page in support of FYS 112, and provide leadership for faculty development efforts (May workshop, Boot Camp in Ethical Theory, periodic norming/assessment meetings, etc.)

Faculty Development (EAC)

Plan and coordinate workshops, book discussions, and other appropriate faculty development efforts (webinars, ethics-related conferences, etc.)

Campus Coordinator (Mars Hill Ethics Bowl Team)

Recruit and train students, develop and maintain a Moodle page, facilitate regular meetings, provide appropriate resource and training materials, handle travel details for Ethics Bowl competitions

Ethics Lecture Series

Plan and coordinate an annual Ethics Lecture series (identify speakers, coordinate ancillary programming to supplement Ethics Lecture series, manage logistical details associated with programming)

Ethics-intensive courses

Work with a Steering/Advisory Committee to review proposals for an ethics-intensive designation for courses and manage the Ethics Certificate program

Ethics Certificate Program

Work with a Steering/Advisory Committee to develop and maintain an Ethics Certificate program (mission, objectives, assessment, student recruitment, monitoring student work, etc.)

Develop and implement with the Office of Community Engagement appropriate experiential learning standards and requirements for the Ethics Certificate program

Advancement

Develop appropriate supporting materials to assist in the identification of prospective EAC donors and donor opportunities

Work with the Office of Advancement to coordinate EAC-related fundraising events

Ethics Across the Curriculum, Annual Goals 2016-2017

Submitted by Guy Sayles, Interim Coordinator of Ethics Across the Curriculum

1. FYS 112

- a. Along with the Dean of General Education, recruit two (2) instructors who have not previously taught FYS 112 to do so and reactivate two (2) who have taught previously but are not doing so in the Spring 2016 Semester.

Measure: Instructors recruited and reactivated.

- b. Identify/re-identify a core of ethical content/vocabulary for inclusion in all sections of FYS 112, while offering flexible and creative teaching strategies for inclusion of that material.

Measure: Core identified and teaching strategies included in ongoing training.

2. Support Conversations about Ethics on Campus

Identify and offer collaboration with events and presentations on campus which provide opportunities for conversations and learning about ethical issues affecting our campus. Examples include, but not limited to: academic integrity, race, gender, sexuality and sexual orientation.

Measure: Co-sponsorship or provision of significant support for two (2) initiatives, not originated solely by EAC.

3. Faculty Development

Expand participation in ethics instruction development opportunities for faculty, especially in the Spring EAC-sponsored workshop.

Measure: Increased participation over previous years.

September 13, 2016

To: Dr. Jim Brown
From: Guy Sayles
RE: Ethics Across the Curriculum Report

Initial Impressions:

Since getting the opportunity to offer leadership and coordination to the Ethics Across the Curriculum initiative, I've gathered information about the work that has been in process, had discussions with people who've been involved in EAC efforts (or who might be willing to be involved), and formed *some initial impressions*:

- ❖ MHU has effectively put ethics *in* the curriculum, with FYS 112, the revamping of some ethics classes into I and I offerings (REL 341 and GE 320, for instance) and the requirement that all Business majors take BA/PHI 330 or an approved equivalent. There might be other majors which require an ethics course; these are the ones of which I have direct knowledge.
- ❖ Ethics *in* the curriculum is not, of course, the same as ethics *across the curriculum*. There are many remaining possibilities for encouraging genuine multi-disciplinary approaches to the study of ethics, as well as for encouraging and helping teachers to make explicit the implicit ethical issues in their respective disciplines. If we take "writing across the curriculum" as a rough analogy, there is room for fuller integration of ethical instruction into more of the course offerings at MHU. Whatever approach we might or might not take to encourage that fuller integration, it would have to be respectful of teachers' prerogatives in their own courses and classrooms. The best way, I think, is through simply providing faculty development and practical (inexpensive or no cost) resources.
- ❖ I'm particularly interested in Ethics across the Campus—or "across the implicit curriculum." How can we make ethical awareness and practice more a part of the MHU culture? Supporting and extending efforts like the implementation of the Academic Integrity Policy, Constitution Day/Week, discussion of race and class (as with the Hoffman Fund discussion Virginia Bowers is convening), and conversations about gender and sexual identity seem particularly crucial for our campus. I'd like for EAC to play a catalytic and visible role in those kinds of efforts, doing whatever we can to make them more genuinely campus-wide.

Nursing
of the

Best
practices

These
are not
clear goals

Full
Commitment

Meetings Held:

- ❖ Deb Morris: she helped get me up-to-speed on the past activities of EAC.
- ❖ Heather Hawn: we discussed her perceptions about how EAC could be inclusive of more faculty and students and about how the EAC coordinator could provide a bit more guidance about ethical content to FYS 112 instructors.

Paper Work ❖ Ryan Bell: we talked about his impressions of EAC, especially of FYS 112 and about his work as coach of the Ethics Bowl team. - check in 1 - Confer - recruit - framing

Ethical theories beyond comprehension

❖ Cathy Adkins: we discussed FYS 112 for Spring of 2017 and her impressions of EAC more generally. I agreed to coordinate the weekly FYS 112 instructors' meetings and to provide, as the Spring Semester nears, a suggested "core" of ethical content to be covered in the classes. inductive / ethical action - research

❖ Lisa Wachtman and Ryan Bell: we talked about "signature" issues in FYS 111. 1- Rehab 2- isolation 3- How can I best teach ... ?

Meetings Pending:

- ❖ Brett Johnson, Thursday, September 15.
- ❖ Laurie Pedersen, Thursday, September 29.
- ❖ EAC "Advisory Group," TBD.

strategies / testing challenges - change course = Pilot group

Plans/Questions:

- ❖ I'll give an update to faculty at the October meeting and ask for input and ideas.
- ❖ Do you know the status of the EAC "certificate" / "certification?" If we're not in a position of granting it yet, is it important for me to move us toward being able to do so? Is this something to pursue with the Registrar and/or with the Curriculum Committee? email Barry Marie Matt
- ❖ Do I need any kind of approval or permission to send general emails/notices to faculty and staff about EAC related matters? Other means of communication?
- ❖ How do I access EAC funds to sponsor/co-sponsor ethics-related campus events and faculty development?

Web page - EAC / EACampus for

Survantra Fendler Student Achievements | Awards + Recognition

UC San Diego
Builds a culture of academic integrity

Academic Integrity Board

Ryan Bell

Felice

Shannon Kucard

Phil Carroll

Rachel Mitchell

Shannon Lucas

Al Tyson

Phyllis Smith

Deb Myers

~~9/20~~
~~20~~

~~9/19~~ -

9/26 -

will

meet

) 1/6

October 11, 2016

To: Dr. Jim Brown
From: Guy Sayles
RE: Ethics Across the Curriculum Report

Meetings/Contacts Since September 13:

- ❖ Brett Johnson: he filled-in some of the background of FYS 112 and of the work of the Ethics Advisory Committee.
- ❖ Laurie Pedersen: similar to my meeting with Brett Johnson.
- ❖ Cathy Adkins: Regular—primarily email—communication about instructors for Spring 2017 FYS 112.
- ❖ Barry Sharpe: a very helpful conversation about the scope of EAC and his perception of challenges and opportunities.

Future Meetings/Contacts

- ❖ Felice Lopez: to discuss the possibility of her Narrative Journalism class' morphing into an Ethics in Journalism class (maybe I and I).
- ❖ Adrienne Warfield: to talk about her Social Justice and Literature Class
- ❖ Bev Robertson and Heather Hawn: to talk about a campus-wide reading book which might be broadly related to EAC themes. *Freshman? FYS 111? Theme-based?*
- ❖ EAC Advisory Committee: November 10, 11:00 AM
- ❖ Deb Myers: to talk about her impressions of the status of, and path forward for, "Certificate" programs

Ongoing Issues and Opportunities:

- ❖ Ethics Bowl: Ryan Bell is recruiting team members. It feels like this process might be lagging a bit; I am continuing to encourage him to move forward. Barry Sharpe said he is willing to help Ryan upon Ryan's request (the Ethics Bowl Theme for this year is Ethics and Law).
- ❖ Status of Certificate: working on this will involve conversations with EAC Advisory Committee, Curriculum Committee, *Deans' Council* (perception of "Certificate" programs) and Registrar (including about designations of transcripts. Same code as honors program according to Edith Whitt). *Matt Bell*
- ❖ Identifying Opportunities to Develop Additional Ethics Courses (and/or enhancing the ethical content/perspectives of existing courses).
- ❖ Conversation about Assessment Process for FYS 112, Spring 2017
- ❖ Identifying Future Faculty for FYS 112

- ❖ Work with Virginia Bower to Follow up Hoffman Book Discussion
- ❖ Faculty Development Event for Spring 2017
- ❖ Further Out
 - Website
 - Resource Center
 - Ethics Lecture Series
 - Sponsoring/Hosting Ethics Bowl Event(s)—possible recruitment value
 - Center for Practical (and Professional?) Ethics

Plans/Questions:

- ❖ Is there at EAC Coordinator Job Description?

Ryan

November 8, 2016

To: Dr. Jim Brown
From: Guy Sayles
RE: Ethics Across the Curriculum Report

Meetings/Contacts since October 11:

- ❖ Felice Lopez: After discussion, she and I decided that her Narrative Journalism class, even if modified, wouldn't easily fit as an ethics intensive course. We also talked about her Graphic Novels class and she decided to use much of it to teach an FYS 112 session; she will offer it next semester (Spring 2017)
- ❖ Matt Baldwin: emails and brief conversations with Matt about the status of the Ethics Certificate. His impression, and I agree, is that there is still a lot of work for the University to do about the status and meaning of "certificate" designations.

Future Meetings/Contacts

- ❖ Deb Myers: Deb has been away, but we have agreed to meet to talk about similarities of, differences between, and collaborative opportunities for the Center for Community Engagement and Ethics Across the Curriculum. I also want to get her perspective on the "Certificate" programs
- ❖ Bev Robertson and Heather Hawn: The meeting for last month got postponed. We are meeting tomorrow, November 9, to talk about a campus-wide reading book which might be broadly related to EAC themes and about how Political Science and Renfro Library can be collaborative partners in EAC activi.
- ✦ ❖ EAC Advisory Committee: November 10, 11:00 AM

Ethics Bowl

Excerpt from a recent email response from Ryan Bell:

"I have scheduled multiple interest meetings and scoured the schedules of interested students. Marie Nicholson created a Special Topics course and we have 6 students currently registered. We have scheduled meetings with those available in Day 205 on Wednesdays at 2 and a TBA evening meeting depending on students' availabilities. I'm still hoping to pull some more students in."

Annual Goals Submitted to Suzanne Klonis (copy included with this report)

Materials Collected (copies included with this report):

- ❖ Center for Practical Ethics Draft
- ❖ Center of Practical Ethics Catalog Copy Draft
- ❖ EAC Director Job Description Draft

Working on

- ❖ New and/or Urgent
 - Determining which of the draft items (above and included) have been acted upon and by whom or, if they haven't been, where and at what pace I need to pursue their being settled.
- ❖ Continuing Items:
 - Status of Certificate: working on this will involve conversations with EAC Advisory Committee, Curriculum Committee, Deans' Council (perception of "Certificate" programs) and Registrar (including about designations of transcripts. Same code as honors program according to Edith Whitt).
 - Identifying Opportunities to Develop Additional Ethics Courses (and/or enhancing the ethical content/perspectives of existing courses).
 - Conversation about Assessment Process for FYS 112, Spring 2017
 - Identifying Future Faculty for FYS 112
 - Faculty Development Event for Spring 2017
 - Further Out
 - Website
 - Resource Center
 - Ethics Lecture Series
 - Sponsoring/Hosting Ethics Bowl Event(s)—possible recruitment value

Plans/Questions:

- ❖ Is there at EAC Coordinator Job Description?

February 1, 2017

PO
Ethics

To: Dr. Jim Brown
From: Guy Sayles
RE: Ethics Across the Curriculum Report

Meetings/Contacts since November 8, 2016:

- ❖ Heather Hawn and Bev Robertson: To brainstorm about ways we might collaborate to encourage ethics related reading on campus.
- ❖ Ethics Across the Curriculum Advisory Committee: My first meeting with this group. I discussed with them the upcoming FYS 112 courses, the transition of EAC Coordination to the philosopher who will be in place by Fall 2017, and the work I am doing and hope to do on "ethics across the campus."
- ❖ Cathy Adkins: To discuss FYS 112 Team Meetings.
- ❖ Ryan Bell: To discuss Ethics Bowl and challenges related to facilitating civil conversations about contested issues in the classroom.
- ❖ Hoffman Fund Conversations: Participated in these conversations that Virginia Bower facilitated.
- ❖ Amy Carraux-Price: To discuss points of continuity between FYS 111 and FYS 112 and to work on advisor assignment for FYS 112. (LISA/RYAN)
- ❖ FYS 112 Team Meetings: December 13, January 12 ("Boot Camp"), January 23.
- ❖ Heather Hawn: To update her on FYS 112, since she's unable to attend Team Meetings.
- ❖ Philosophy Faculty Search Committee: Paying particular attention to the skillset and interests needed for the new hire to be a successful advocate for Ethics Across the Curriculum.

S. Asheville/Hendersonville Community -
AB Tech

Future Meetings/Contacts

- ❖ Ongoing FYS 112 Team Meetings
- ❖ Ethics Bowl "Scrimmage": February 6, rescheduled from January 30 (snow)

To Keep in Mind:

- ❖ Future EAC Budget(s): We are telling philosophy faculty candidates that MHU has a vision for an "Ethics Center"; if that is to become a reality, there will need to be increases in budgeted funds for this initiative.
- ❖ Continuing Items:
 - Faculty Development Event for Spring 2017

Other Things?
Stevenson
Moffet
Meredith
Doster

EAC Directors?
VARR Center
- Elon?

strategic

March 1, 2017

To: Dr. Jim Brown
From: Guy Sayles
RE: Ethics Across the Curriculum Report

Meetings/Contacts since February 1, 2017:

- ❖ FYS 112 Team Meetings:
 - a. February 13: Discussed the “meet your new advisor” assignment; Student Support Services made a brief announcement. Focused on “fearless dialogue”—an approach to having difficult conversations.
 - b. February 20: Talked about “mindfulness” and ethics instruction.
- ❖ Cathy Adkins and Ryan Bell (via several emails): worked on agreeing to include FYC in FYS 112.
- ❖ Philosophy Faculty Search Committee: Paying particular attention to the skillset and interests needed for the new hire to be a successful advocate for Ethics Across the Curriculum.

Future Meetings/Contacts

- ❖ Ryan Bell and Cathy Adkins on March 9: to discuss a spring faculty development event that will include instructors of both FYS 111 and 112. Matt Hipps, from Dalton (GA) State College is the presenter we’re considering.
- ❖ FYS 112 Team Meetings on March 20 and 27 and April 3: Candidates for Professor of Philosophy will do their teaching demonstrations and have conversation with the FYS 112 Team.

To Keep in Mind:

- ❖ Future EAC Budget(s): We are telling philosophy faculty candidates that MHU has a vision for an “Ethics Center”; if that is to become a reality, there will need to be increases in budgeted funds for this initiative.

Other Things?

April 5, 2017

To: Dr. Jim Brown
From: Guy Sayles
RE: Ethics Across the Curriculum Report

Meetings/Contacts since March 1, 2017:

- ❖ FYS 112 Team Meetings: March 20, 27, and April 3: the FYS 112 Team served as the core group for the teaching demonstrations of three candidates for the Philosopher/Ethicist position.
- ❖ Cathy Adkins and Ryan Bell (emails and brief personal contacts): working toward a shared end-of-semester training and enrichment event for FYS 111 and FYS 112 Teams. We are meeting on Thursday (April 6) to finalize many of the details of this event.
- ❖ Philosopher/Ethicist Search Committee: Three Sunday evening to Monday evening campus visits by candidates and two additional committee meetings.
- ❖ Donna Parsons: to plan the promotion and format of a lecture which EAC and the Business Program co-sponsored. The lecture was Monday night, March 27. Presented by Steve Miller, president of Gen-Span, Inc., the theme was "Emerging Leaders, Emotional Intelligence, and Ethics." There were about 45 people present, including the entire men's basketball team and their coach.

Future Meetings/Contacts

- ❖ Ryan Bell and Cathy Adkins on April 6: to continue discussion/planning of the FYS 111/FYS 112 training and enrichment event (see above). Note, the meeting originally set for March 9 and referenced in my March report was canceled because of a conflict on Cathy's schedule)
- ❖ FYS 112 Team Meeting April 17: Primary agenda item will be to discuss end of year evaluation of student essays and of the FYS 112 experience.

Question

- ❖ What about the 2017-2018 Budget?

Other?

Report back
to FYS 112
closing
the loop