



## **ADDENDUM TO GUIDE FOR STUDENT SCHOLAR MENTORS**

### **Mentor Suggested Questions/Framework for Ongoing Discussions with Scholars**

*Building a relationship with your Scholar is the initial – and sometimes ongoing – challenge we have as Mentors. As your relationship grows, and particularly as your Scholar progresses in their academic journey, there are topics of discussion that will be important to have. To guide you in these discussions, an assortment of potential questions – conversation starters – is offered below.*

*Please don't interpret this as a "checklist" that has to be covered in every visit with your Scholar. Your relationship – and conversations – should evolve comfortably and naturally within the context of your Scholar's current life experience. However, as a resource and Mentor to your Scholar these are discussion topics that can prevent small challenges from growing, thereby ensuring progress to graduation is as smooth as possible.*

*Please feel welcome to follow up with your Mentor Resource for additional guidance.*

### **Check in with your scholar once a month. Some topics to discuss include:**

- School
  - What class are you enjoying the most/least?
  - What is your hardest course?
  - Which professor is your favorite?
  - How are things going with dorm/apartment life and accommodations?
  - How are your grades so far?
  - Are you getting the help and resources you need from your school? Any issues?
  - What student activities are you involved with?
  - What habits/behaviors have you learned serve you well over the course of the semester? Since last semester? (time blocking/ideal calendar structure, group outings to the library, journaling, etc.)
    - How can I help you be successful/accountable in sustaining those identified behaviors?
  - What goals do you have for \_\_\_\_\_ (semester, summer, remainder of the school year/ 202X)? What habits are you putting in place to support your achievement? (12 books read/year)
    - How can I help you be successful/accountable in achieving those identified goals?

☐ Finances

- Where are you working?
- Are you saving money?
- How are you funding education?
- What is the student debt situation going forward? Is this a concern?
- What is your biggest cash drain right now?
- Are you getting help from your school with financial planning, etc.?
- What is your longer-term financial goal?

☐ Mental Health

- How are you eating? Or, how's the food there? Or, who does the cooking where you live?
- What have you done with your friends recently?
- What's the social scene like at school?
- Are you keeping in touch with your family/folks/friends?
- What are your biggest challenges/worries/concerns/anxieties right now?
- How are you investing in/making space for any passion projects? (podcast, exercise, volunteering, etc.)
  - Any suggestions/introductions/referrals you'd like from me?
- What support do you have? What support do you need?

☐ Family

- How is your family?
- How are you getting back and forth to school, and when?
- How often do you touch base with your folks, friends back home?
- Does your family visit you?
- Are they excited about what you are doing?
- Do you feel your family supports you in your academic needs/studying needs?
- Does your family understand/appreciate the mentor relationship we have and its purpose?

☐ Get to Know Each Other

- What's your favorite movie?
- If you could take any trip, where would it be?
- What made you choose ...(Stevens Point, Harvard, Wisconsin, etc.)?
- Is school life just as you thought it would be, why, why not?
- What do you like to do for fun?
- What kind of music do you like?
- What kinds of books do you like to read?
- How do you see I can help support your success?

- What (3) goals do you have for our mentorship relationship? (they are likely to shift/change overtime)

□ Long Term

- What is your expected graduation date, and are you keeping close tabs on the courses that are needed to meet that date?
- Are you thinking about the benefit of seeking internships in your field of study?
- What are you going to do after graduation?
- Do you plan on staying in the Milwaukee area?
- Any thoughts about grad school or continuing education?
- What kind of job are you interested in, and how do you plan on getting it?
- Are you keeping your resume' up to date?