

CORE Group Leader Agenda  
October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
9:00pm  
Week 5

### **Understanding Advising and Interdependence within the Liberal Arts Setting**

CORE Group Leaders should remember that this document is intended to be an outline and not a script to be read to your group. Your role is to facilitate a natural-feeling discussion on the topic and provide a forum for discussion and questions.

Establish ground rules for the conversation: be respectful, don't share other people's stories, no one is forced to share or participate, be an active listener, be supportive support, don't pass judgment, etc. Like with all of the CORE discussions, remember that there is no forced participation. CORE leaders and members are able to determine what level of sharing is right for them. All levels of participation are appreciated.

Be sure to talk about appropriate campus resources as they are relevant to the conversation, and do try to save room for Highs and Lows (or something similar).

### **Learning Outcomes (aka the message you are trying to get across to your CORE group members)**

After tonight's discussion, CORE group members will:

- To gain an understanding of how the process of a liberal arts education will be a positive facet of the Lawrence experience.
- To feel more comfortable approaching and navigating the process of academic advising, and developing positive relationships with faculty members
- Develop a "support team" of people and resources on campus to support academic, social, emotional, and financial needs.

### **Activity Option 1: Create your support system (Interdependence)**

Interdependence is not the same as dependence or co-dependence, rather it is a mutually supportive set of relationships and networks. Successful students usually find and strengthen their roles as students by creating supportive networks and giving and receiving help from their peers as well as turning to mentors, professors, and advisors for help. Conversely, struggling students often work alone and seldom cooperate with others as a team. Therefore, students should definitely develop mutually supportive relationships while at the university. It is true in college, as well as life, that no one gets where they are going alone (Source: University of Maine).

**Activity Description:** Have each student come up with a list of people s/he feels connected with, and will use as a resource, in regards to:

1. Academics
2. Social Life
3. Emotional Well-Being
4. Financial Well-Being

Ideally there should be at least two people per area but inform students that it's okay if there is only one...or none. Also remind them to list people/resources that they actually feel comfortable using, not just what they think is the right thing to say. CORE leader should be prepared to share their support team and provide the opportunity for others to do the same.

### Activity Option 2: The Perfect Advising Experience (PowerPoint)

Using the PowerPoint provided, show the most commonly used words by upperclassman to describe the advising experience. Using the words from upperclassmen, create together the perfect advising experience.

### Activity/Icebreaker Option 3: Create a “Liberal Arts” story.

Each person gets one piece of paper. On that paper, each person will write one sentence to start a story (e.g. - “Once upon a time” or “On a liberal arts campus far away...”). Once each person has written the one sentence.... everyone will pass their paper clockwise to the next person. The next person will continue the story by adding one sentence. Keep rotating the papers around the room until everyone has added one sentence to each story. Once completed, feel free to read a few stories aloud and notice if any themes emerge.

### Discussion: Understanding the liberal arts education

- What do you think a liberal arts education means?
  - Balance and understanding in most aspects of academia as well as something specific
  - Well-roundedness
  - Learning experiences outside of the classroom
  - Self-directed aspect
- What is the stereotype of a liberal arts education?
  - Defined by BuzzFeed (are these true for Lawrence?)
    - <http://www.buzzfeed.com/jonmichaelpoff/struggles-everyone-at-a-liberal-arts-college-knows-to-be#.pxnoGLYKn>
    - <http://www.buzzfeed.com/laraparker/small-liberal-arts-colleges-are-the-best-bye#.xoY73QArz>
  - Hipsters
  - Generalists
  - Unwilling to commit
  - Upper class
  - Comments:
    - Sometimes people don’t really know what they’re getting into when it comes to liberal arts
- What do you think is the value of a liberal arts education?
  - Some recent media attention about Liberal Arts
    - <http://www.fastcompany.com/3034947/the-future-of-work/why-top-tech-ceos-want-employees-with-liberal-arts-degrees>
    - <http://visual.ly/liberal-arts-colleges-small-schools-making-big-impact>
  - Exposes you to new ideas and experiences that you wouldn’t normally get
  - There aren’t as many jobs that are as cut and dry
  - Good situation= inter related fields; lots of different types of thinking and above average decision makers
  - Great four years of your life that will open you up to a lot of things and learning a lot
  - Going beyond the vocational part of learning
  - Jobs dealing with people- connecting with a lot of people about everything
  - Challenges what we think, the way we think, and why we think that way
  - Very open to learning and carrying that mentality to the future

- Paying attention to causes beyond yourself

### **Discussion: Working with faculty and developing relationships with academic advisors**

- Common ground resources:
  - CORE YouTube page:
    - There are two versions of the Dean Gajewski video. I believe the shorter video mentions upcoming academic advising meetings. The longer video talks about academic advising, working with faculty, and a helpful website to look at. There is also a great video from Prof. Tim Spurgin about the classes at Lawrence and the nature of our liberal arts structure.  
[http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1WRrtcqaW5Ilqtv\\_y\\_OFXw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1WRrtcqaW5Ilqtv_y_OFXw)
  - CTL Website Link:
    - This site covers questions such as, 'What does my advisor do?', 'How was my advisor assigned?', 'What is the advising relationship?', 'How do I change my advisor?' and many more.  
[http://www.lawrence.edu/students/academic\\_life/academic\\_services/resource\\_s](http://www.lawrence.edu/students/academic_life/academic_services/resource_s)
- When should you seek out your professors?
- How do you communicate with faculty outside of class?
- What do you think faculty expect from you?
- What are your expectations of your academic advisor?
  - Relationship with you?
  - Connection to resources?
  - Connection to interest areas?
- Are you anxious about the upcoming advisor/advisee meetings?
  - Advisors will typically email with requests to meet during 6<sup>th</sup> week
  - What questions do you have about that meeting?

### **Inform:**

Remind first year/new students that they should plan to meet with their advisor over reading period

The Econ department has a great website describing advising, what it is and the responsibility and expectations for both professors and students. Good Stuff!

<https://www.lawrence.edu/academics/study/economics/advising>

### **Additional Referrals and Resources:**

- Office of Multicultural Affairs can assist with providing the resources necessary for all students to express and explore culture and identity.
- RLA/RHD can assist with hall and roommate issues, establishing res hall connections and hall programming, and helping someone get connected/ involved on campus
- RHD on Duty 920-419-6596 or Security 920-832-6999 to report something that seems unsafe
- Counselling Services can assist with depression, anxiety, transitions, and support in general
- Office of Multicultural Affairs can assist with providing the resources necessary for all students to express and explore culture and identity.
- International Student Services can assist with cultural transitions and adjustments

- Student Academic Services, located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Briggs, can help with academic accommodations, working with faculty and /or advisors, honor council, etc.
- Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) can assist with making faculty connections, tutoring, time management, test taking and study skills, etc.
- Volunteer and Community Service Center (VCSC) can help with making connections and establishing relationships beyond the campus borders. Service projects can be a one-time project or on-going.
- Dean of Students Office or Campus Life office can help with general policy questions, or questions that don't tend to fit into other areas

If through your conversations you learn that someone is really struggling with something or they seem to not be connecting to anyone here on campus let your CORE coordinator or me know that so that we can do some follow-up.