Olek’s Mentoring Interview Sheet

Fall 2017

1. How do you describe the role of being a mentor?

To me, being a mentor is being someone who guides students through the subject by example and by direct interaction. A mentor is someone who a student should be able to believe that they can get a answer to most questions that they ask them.

1. In your own experience with mentors, what have you found to be the most important characteristics in a successful mentor?

The mentors that I found the be successful in doing their job made me enthusiastic about the subject and kept trying even when I was clearly frustrated. They were patient and generous with their time.

1. What do you expect to the hardest part about mentoring this coming semester? What steps can you take to make sure you’re still being successful in that aspect?

For me, mindful communication has always been very difficult. I get frustrated when others do not understand something that I do, and especially so when I try to explain it to them! Being able to have empathy and act on that empathy without just giving away answers is going to be very difficult for me, but by practicing mindfulness and remaining engaged with my mentees, I believe that I can cultivate a tremendous amount of growth in this area.

1. What do you see as your best aspect as a mentor?

I think I can be good at explaining things in simple terms and I like physics and like to try to get other people to like physics. I always want to do better which I think is useful for receiving feedback from mentees and other mentors and Minna.

1. What plans do you have to get feedback from your mentees? How often? How in-depth?

I might send out a doodle poll every 3-4 weeks to ask about mentor sessions, conduct in class etc. For example, questions like “How do you like the format of mentor sessions?” “Do you want your mentor(s) to be more or lesss involved in class activities?” “Do you feel like your mentor is a resource to you? Why or why not? How could we improve?’

1. A. What do you want to make sure you and your mentees get out of your relationship this semester?

I want them to become good problem solvers which means they are good critical thinkers.

B. What is your plan to make this happen?

I am not sure. I can only guide them, whether they follow is up to them. But if they do come to me for help that makes accomplishing this goal easier.