

MU TABOR SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

DEAN'S BUSINESS COUNCIL

Notes from MS Teams meeting on July 18, 2022 at 2:00 PM central time.

DBC members present: Tony Douglass, Louis Javois, Dave Weatherford, Deb Youssef

Tabor faculty/staff present: RJ Podeschi, Becky Stubblefield, Gabe Soria

- Mentorship Program Outline – attached
 - Created by Gabe and RJ after previous DBC discussions
 - Looking for feedback from the Council
 - Starting point for developing a structure for how this might work, role that DBC can play in the rollout, advertising to students & alumni, recruit alumni
 - Deb suggested that a more detailed plan be created from this, outlining each item on the outline, with corresponding actionable items, who is responsible for each item, timeline for completion, etc.
 - Does everything need to be done before we roll out the program?
 - Louis noted that mentorship relationships can be reactive or proactive. Is there a certain type of relationship we are looking to help create?
 - RJ noted that it will often depend on the connection between the mentor & student, as well as the needs of the student.
 - Louis suggested we inform the mentors of the possible scenarios and how to be prepared for those
 - Deb mentioned that those kinds of supporting materials (scripts, expectations, rubrics, steps, questions to use, etc.) would be good to develop for the mentors.
 - RJ sees our primary role is to facilitate the initial connection and initial expectations of both the mentor and the student.
 - Deb suggested creating a plan for an “out” for mentors if needed.
 - Dave noted that he expects our biggest challenge will be keeping students engaged, but we should also provide a plan if a student wants to continue with a mentor but the mentor is ready to be done.

- Pilot in BU250 – Written Business Communication – usually in sophomore or junior year – students learn to write in a business tone, build resumes, write cover letters, recommendations for other people, etc.
 - This would be a good place to pilot this program to 20-60 students if we can get faculty to incorporate this as an assignment.
 - Can use pilot group of mentors to build out that piece as well.
 - Could contain scope of offerings that fit well within the course.
- Will gather information from mentors and students to match needs, time commitment, etc.
 - Perhaps track what students have done with other mentors so new mentors can see the history?
 - Follow-up survey to both student & mentor
- Think about: what MUST be accomplished before the pilot rolls out?
- Next steps: more detailed breakdown, timeline, re-share with DBC
- Fall on-campus DBC meeting
 - Schedule in conjunction with Homecoming, which is set for October 7-9, 2022.
 - Include time with faculty to get your insight into industry needs, direction, etc., to then incorporate into the curriculum.
 - Perhaps send info on who is coming, set up panel, set theme or discussion topics?
 - Could pull in alumni/experts from outside DBC for discussions
 - RJ and Becky will put together a proposed schedule and get input from faculty on potential themes.
 - Suggested: cloud computing, future of marketing, fluid work environment
- Second DBC focus – industry insights to inform Tabor strategy, curricular changes and how we prepare students for careers.
- RJ shared that Fall 2022 enrollment for Tabor is over 90 new students, including international exchange, transfer, and incoming freshmen.
- Agribusiness curriculum is moving forward, hopes to go to Council for approval in the fall, to be offered beginning Fall 2023.
- The group congratulated Gabe on his upcoming completion of the MBA program – he will finish courses on Friday, July 29 – and thanked him for his assistance on the DBC projects over the last year.
- Adjourned at 2:55 PM.

Next call: Monday, August 22, 2022 at 2:00 PM CST