

McPherson College

Community by Design 2.0 Open Session

April 11, 2022

Thoughts on mentoring as a strategy?

- How do we make it more systematic?
- A mentor is more than just someone who has technical expertise
- Mentoring is a good strategy for retention
- One mentoring approach will not fix everything—need various mentoring efforts
- Student work is a key mentoring opportunity on campus
- Team You is a great way to measure and create a mentoring system
- Need a clear definition and expectations for mentors/mentees

Wellness as a strategy to define and understand our community?

- Holistic approach is best—don't just focus on physical
- Wellness could be something that brings the campus together other than student activities—example yoga or fitness classes as well as financial literacy seminars could bring people from across departments to build community
- Could Adventure programming fit into wellness on campus?
- Need to better plug into student mental health issues—online
- Wellness opportunities fit with the E. McPherson concept when it comes to physical, mental, cultural
- Is there a way to provide wellness incentives to the community?

Thoughts on General Education?

- Students get excited about experiential learning in the classroom
- Service learning is a great pedagogical strategy that also incorporates a theme
- Faculty need to feel empowered
- Church of the Brethren and social justice and service roots are good for the entire campus and deeper understandings of both could be good general education themes
- Need to always be sharing our cultural values to our students—over and over; campaigns so that students understand who we are and what we expect
- Broader approaches to pedagogy including setting—online, discussion based courses, experiential, outdoors; cohort model