

**Community Connections**  
**Peer Mentor Feedback: Fall 2011**  
**Minutes**

**Topics for Discussion**

December 13, 2011

**1. Comments/Recommendations**

- Freshman Seminar: Better communication with freshman seminar advisors in advance would allow for more engagement of mentors in seminar activities and a more clearly defined role for the mentors. Mentors would like to see more time spent on time management in the seminar.
- Study sessions: Mentors will schedule “office hours” to assure optimal usage of study lounge; scheduling coordinator will organize this.
- Identification of leaders among current students: We discussed the importance of engaging student leaders in the identification and organization of academic and social events across communities. Mentors will be sending me lists of names.
- Scheduling for Fall 12: Mentors indicated that they had a good sense of student schedules and what works for students.

**2. Spring 2012**

- **More clearly defined roles**

Academic coordinator: in this role, mentors coordinate tutoring activities across communities. (Utsav and Utkarsh)

Social coordinator: in this role, mentors coordinate out-of-class social activities across communities and work to make the study lounge atmosphere more “friendly”. Very important to engage student leaders in this for student buy-in. (Vera)

Web/video coordinator: in this role, mentors manage and contribute to the design of the community connections web page, and coordinate promotional videos/testimonials. (Abdul and Dan)

Community service leader: in this role, mentors coordinate at least one community service activity across communities for the spring semester. Activities should be team-based (i.e. Community Foodbank, Habitat for humanity, or Branchbrook park clean-up) (Eveanandi, Asiya, Luqman)

Career development coordinator: in this role, mentors organize field trips to industry (with the help of advisors, CDS, professional societies), organize resume workshops, connect CC students to students in co-op programs and young alumni (with help of advisor).

Scheduling coordinator: in this role, mentors manage scheduling of the study lounge and help schedule important events. (Sam)

- **Out-of-class activities**

Academic: While mentors like the idea of team design projects and competition across communities, they are not confident that students will have the time or motivation for anything other than a “one-time” event. “One-time” event ideas included a “hackathon” involving CS, COE students and the ACM club, and a design competition involving legos. A design challenge was also proposed (Erika) where students would design a game to help solve calculus problems and better prepare students for exams.

Professional Development: Mentors like the idea of field trips to industry, communication with alumni, more interaction with professional student societies, and better preparation for career fairs and promoting understanding about co-ops. The idea of a resume workshop or “resumania” event was proposed.

Social: Mentors expressed concerns about the challenges associated with organizing large groups of students on social field trips. We discussed the fact that events should be driven by student-leaders and may be mostly “ad-hoc”. One “larger” event proposed that would involve greater organization across communities is a “mini-olympics”.

### 3. Other topics:

CHE mentors were proud to announce that a few freshmen in the CHE community were elected to the executive board of the AICHE student society; this is the first-time freshman are serving as leaders on e-board.

CHE mentors notes that some students were forming their own study sessions outside those they scheduled and questioned whether they should encourage students to organize their own groups. We discussed the fact that to best engage students, we should encourage their self-organization and promote by encouraging other students to join in and use the study lounge!

A few Biology and Business students have transferred to community colleges or RU.

Mentors (other than SOM) were not aware that athletes could fulfill tutoring requirements by attending study sessions.

Mentors should reach out to student leaders now, engage them over email during the break, and make a plan for the spring!