Case Scenario Writing Assignment

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**Scenario 1: Our veteran student, Stephen, is motivated to complete all of his graduation requirements and earn his degree. While degree completion is his ultimate goal, how would you engage Stephen in an ongoing conversation about the value of his higher education experience?**

As we near the end of the fall semester, Stephen should have inquired about resources to connect with other adult students to begin building a network with peers he could relate to. He has already asked if there is a veteran’s club on campus, but there has been no follow up regarding his involvement in the club. Stephen could also ask about clubs or service organizations that interest him. These extracurricular activities serve to socially connect him to the college environment, and also begin fostering positive social engagement characteristics which are often the desired outcome for attending college. Stephen is still relatively new to college life along with transitioning from a drastically different environment of active military duty in Iraq, so it is to be expected that he is experiencing some culture shock and adjustment difficulties. I do not think his lack of engagement on campus reflects a crisis yet, but if he does not show some improvement in adjusting to campus life by the first quarter of the spring semester, I would intervene more strongly and begin to worry about persistence to graduation.

The shift from the brotherhood that comes from operating as a deployed military unit in the Marines is drastically different from the social community of a college campus. It is highly likely that Stephen does not know how to instigate friendship with peers who have never served in the military. If he neglects to ask questions that could result in finding a community, I would initiate this conversation and try to explain some of the academic and future benefits of networking during college.

**Scenario 2: How could collaboration with Career Services be useful/helpful for Maria as she discerns which teaching opportunities may be available to her?**

Maria is a senior in college but lacks direction regarding how to prepare for graduation and the following job search. She has asked questions about these concerns but has also expressed a possible interest to pursue graduate schooling or even transferring to be closer to her boyfriend. Engaging in collaboration with Career Services would allow me to gently intervene, and hopefully provide clear direction to help Maria persist to graduation at her current university. She should be asking specific questions such as: Where can I find English or French teaching job listings? How can I write an effective resume to help me get hired? Have I completed the relevant coursework to graduate on time? Are there any shadowing or volunteering opportunities that I should take advantage of to become more marketable?

Career Services would likely have the answers to most of the above questions, and through answering these questions, whether explicitly asked or not, Maria could find the direction she is looking for.

**Scenario 3: How could Monica’s academic adviser and a pre-law adviser on her campus work together to help her decide if law school is a viable option?**

Monica's academic adviser can answer her questions regarding transferring previous credits from community college to her current university. Her adviser can also address her concerns of being academically up to speed with her peers, and establish communication with her pre-law adviser to merge these transfer credits with the credit requirements of the university. Once a clear plan is communicated regarding the courses and credit requirements to graduate as a pre-law student, discussions regarding extracurricular activities to make her a competitive candidate for law school admission can begin.

Monica seems to be asking the right questions to begin pursuing law school, so I do not think intervention is necessary at this time.

**Scenario 4: How can advisers promote civic engagement among international students such as Allen? Please keep in mind his interests.**

Allen being a practicing Buddhist who is involved in the community on campus is the perfect foundation for becoming involved in issues of public concerns. Buddhists value cleanliness and respect all living things. These foundations of the faith connect directly with environmental volunteering or working with a local animal shelter. Other international students could also be interested in these efforts because many countries have been committed to environmental projects, so, likely, the international students’ friends are also participating in similar civic engagement.