

## 5.7.2018 Mentoring EBMC students, one-on-one meeting scenarios

*Scenarios. Choose at least 2 to role play in your small group. Don't talk about the scenario – act it out. You can always say, "Stop! Let's do 'take two' on this" and start over.*

1. You've given a Dharma talk, or you're teaching a class series or daylong at EBMC, and you're approached by a student. They say, "I'd like to make an appointment with you to talk about my meditation practice / spiritual practice." What do you do / say?

In a one-on-one mentoring meeting:

2. A student says they love meditation and the Dharma. They live simply in a small apartment and spend a lot of time quietly meditating. They are sure they'd like to ordain as a Buddhist monk or nun and want to know next steps to take.

3. A student says they are deeply depressed and when they meditate they are certain they're not doing it right, and this makes them feel even worse about themselves.

4. A student says they have fallen in love with their therapist, and their therapist is constantly complimenting them (the client) on their appearance. They'd like to have a sexual relationship with the therapist and want to know if you have any advice to give them.

5. After meeting with a student several times, you, the teacher, realize you experience an erotic charge / sexual attraction to a student which is mixed together with your admiration for their passion for the Dharma and spiritual practice. What do you do/say?

6. After meeting with a student several times, you, the teacher, realize you feel prejudice against the student, which is mixed together with your genuine admiration and respect for them. What do you do/say?

7. A student says, "I think your teachings are amazing, and I'd like to ask you to be my Teacher." What do you do/say?

8. A student says, "I don't see any reason to go on living." What do you do/say?

9. A student is excited after having done a one week / one month residential meditation retreat and wants to process it with you. "I realized that I really have no self, so I'm going to leave my partner and our young child and move into a monastery. The Buddha did it, and I want to follow his example, in the service of Enlightenment!"

10. A student asks for Buddhist study instruction. They ask a number of questions, but seem restless and unfocused when you answer their questions. Eventually they interrupt you and say, "I thought this was all about Compassion. I can't really relate to the Eightfold Path." What do you do/say?

11. A student says, "All my life I've suffered because of self-hatred. Then I heard a talk, and the teacher giving the talk quoted the Buddha, who said, 'You can search throughout the entire universe for someone who is more deserving of your love and affection than you are yourself, and that person is not to be found anywhere. You yourself, as much as anybody in the entire universe deserve your love and affection.' That is so beautiful! I've realized I have a deep interest in Buddhism and the teachings of the Buddha! How can I learn more?"  
What do you do/say?

12. A student says, "I meditate every day, 20 minutes in the morning and 20 minutes in the evening. What should I do next?"  
What do you do/say?

13. A student says, "I've just started a sitting meditation practice. Whenever I close my eyes and start to meditate, I see myself, on fire, running around. What should I do?"