Ethics Initiative
September 8, 2017

The need:

At national and local levels and on college campuses, we find ourselves challenged by divisive times. These challenges make apparent the need for substantive discussions and training around ethical dilemmas. Ethics initiatives do not prescribe the answers but they can help students understand the moral issues at stake, talk about issues with intellectual sophistication, live lives of purpose and consequence, and assume positions of ethical leadership. In business, politics, science, law, and leadership, the need for an education in ethics is profound and employers increasingly recognize this need.

The University of Richmond will distinguish itself with an integrated approach across our five schools. There is no ethics initiative in the national landscape that has our strength and breadth. We can excel in preparing students to lead in professions that increasingly demand ethics training.

The committee charge:

In the next six months, we will assess programs in Ethics at the University of Richmond and explore ways to build on our existing strengths, significantly advancing our mission to educate students for lives of purpose and responsible leadership. The committee will:

1) Assess what is presently underway within and across Schools;

2) Identify options for additional ethics education, including:
   - **Curricular** – Expansion of ethics courses and course sequences across the curriculum (add coherence to current course offerings)
   - **Practice** – Extension of programming to co-curricular
   - **Outward-facing elements** – Sponsored speakers, symposia, lectures, conferences, web presences, and other public elements

3) Consider resource needs, including faculty and staff as well as facilities, and estimate costs.

Our Ethics Initiative will add a unique, Five School twist to the ethics programs of other universities. We will take advantage of already existing strengths and put a distinctive UR stamp on such conversations.