

# GUIDING THE MENTOR-MENTEE RELATIONSHIP WITH 'Pesanan Keramat'

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Among the students currently in semester 4 under the guidance of Ms. Nurul Huda Izzati

Every semester, the lecturer cum academic advisor is expected to hold a mentor-mentee meeting with their mentee as a means to reach out to students and communicate with them about a myriad of all things both related to academics and also matters related to their campus life not necessarily involves academic matters directly. This meeting was held on 27th October 2023, Friday, 11.00 am, at block K.

This meeting was communicated as compulsory to attend. Still, to maximize attendance, as an academic advisor, I took the extra effort to order some delicious packed food (chicken rice and soft drinks) and made it clear that only those who attended the meeting could enjoy these delicacies (called delicacies because these are free after all), mentors did not require to pay for the meal. They have to come and join the meeting.

I started the session with welcoming greetings since they have just come back for the new semester (currently semester 4); there were small talks like how they were doing, how the holiday was going for them, and whether the duration of the semester sufficient to get them some rest, etc. These questions usually would get them excited, and I would hear many interesting and creative answers, including mischievous ones like wanting to extend the semester break duration (not enough holiday) they said, enjoying their semester break with "sleep and eating activities," but some students mentioned that they did the part-time job to earn extra income which I managed to compliment. As for those who wish to extend their semester break, I said you guys can go for a more extended break once you graduate on time.

Time flies with all this chit-chatting; the environment was not very formal, or tense like in a normal teaching classroom; here, they were more open to voicing their opinions and feelings. This could also be due to the limited environment since I only have around 19 mentees, and 14 of them attended the meeting.

Other agenda during the meeting are matters concerning their academic matters such as course registration process, credit hours, overall last semester performance (current GPA and overall CGPA), repeat subjects (applies to certain cases only), matters related to final exams, attendance requirement as per semester (attendance must be 80% above to avoid being denied from taking finals exam), etc. arising matters.

Overall, their last semester performance (part 3) was not as good as their (part 2) achievement; as for their Part 3 overall achievement, only two students managed to maintain both their GPA and CGPA above 3.5, and only two students showed a slight increase in performance percentage. The rest indicate a negative percentage growth, which means their semester grade point average is lower than the last semester.

The two students with GPA and CGPA above 3.5 are different from the other two students with a positive percentage increase; this means even though the two students who managed to maintain their GPA and CGPA above 3.5 are showing a negative percentage in their results compared with the previous semester.

The joyous meeting ended with pesanan keramat, such as they must set their goals and work for them in the early semester to make it work instead of burning the midnight oil during study week or the night before their finals. They must remember to call and text their parents regularly (ask for blessings) and never call them only to ask for money; they should appreciate and show concern for their parents daily.