

SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

Report of the 2008-2009 Joint Senate/Administrative Review Committee
on the Implementation of First-Year Engagement Plans

(Informational)

In April 2008, the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Education sponsored, as a legislative report, the final report of the Ad Hoc First-Year Seminar Committee, co-chaired by Kim Steiner and Patti Mills. (See the Senate Agenda for April 29, 2008.) That report was passed by the full Senate in the form of a mandate for First-Year Engagement programming throughout the University, though with somewhat different options for University Park colleges and the Commonwealth campuses.

After the passage of this legislation, a new Joint Senate/Administrative Committee was appointed by then-Senate Chair Ingrid Blood and Vice President and Dean for Undergraduate Education Robert Pangborn to oversee implementation of the legislation by reviewing proposed FYE plans during the 2008-2009 academic year. That process has been completed, and the co-chairs of the Joint Senate/Administrative Review Committee on the Implementation of First-Year Engagement Plans have prepared an informational report, which the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Education sponsors for inclusion on the October 20, 2009, Senate Agenda.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

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JOINT SENATE/ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

First-Year Engagement Plans

Informational Report

Background

At its April 29, 2008, meeting, the University Faculty Senate passed legislation mandating that all University Park colleges and Commonwealth campuses offer First-Year Engagement (FYE) programming, including required First-Year Seminars (FYS) at University Park; and, at the campuses, either First-Year Seminars or a combination of other small courses taught by full-time faculty plus supplementary activities to promote academic engagement among first-year students. This legislation, which replaced earlier Senate legislation that had mandated First-Year Seminars at all locations, now enabled each UP college, and each Commonwealth campus, to tailor FYE to its local circumstances as long as a small set of central criteria were met.

The complete text of the April 29, 2008, FYE legislation, which includes further provisions, and the record of the Senate's action on this legislation, are available on the Senate's FYE website at <http://senate.psu.edu/FYE/fye.htm>. This website also includes a range of other information related to FYE. Senators and other interested colleagues are invited to visit it, and FYE participants are invited to send course syllabi and additional materials to the Senate office so that the FYE website can continue to be a University-wide resource.

At the beginning of the 2008-2009 academic year, a Joint Senate/Administrative Review Committee was appointed to oversee the development and approval of FYE plans for each UP college and each Commonwealth campus. Vice President Robert Pangborn and then-Senate Chair Ingrid Blood charged the Joint Committee with creating and completing a process of reviewing FYE plans so that all locations would be ready to provide FYE by summer 2009. This Joint Committee on the Implementation of First-Year Engagement Plans was co-chaired by Yvonne Gaudelius (Assistant Vice President and Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education) and Caroline Eckhardt (a Liberal Arts Senator with extensive First-Year Seminar experience); other committee members are listed below. The Joint FYE Committee's task was not to reconsider the Senate legislation, nor to supervise the implementation of FYE on any continuing basis, but instead to provide a one-time review of the unit plans at the beginning of this FYE cycle.

During the Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 semesters, the Joint FYE Committee held informational workshops, created forms and a timetable for submitting the plans, oversaw the Senate's development of the FYE Web site noted above, consulted with college or campus representatives as needed, working primarily as two subcommittees, and

reviewed each of the unit plans as they were submitted. In some cases revisions were suggested.

We are glad to report 100 percent compliance: every UP college and Commonwealth campus has an approved FYE plan that it is implementing. The committee co-chairs would like to thank the Senate office staff and the staff in the Undergraduate Education office in Old Main for having provided the outstanding logistical support that made this outcome possible. All the approved unit plans are posted on the Senate FYE website noted above; academic units and campuses have also been asked to post a version of their plans on their college or campus Web sites.

Overview of FYE Plans

The brief summary below provides an overview of the ways in which the University community has responded to the Senate's FYE mandate. Each University Park college and each Commonwealth campus identified a designated FYE contact person and used its own procedures to create its local plan. A summary of the unit plans is included at the end of this report.

University Park Colleges

The Senate's FYE legislation mandates that UP colleges provide and require a First-Year Seminar both for their students, and for a specified number of DUS students, according to a rolling target based on previous DUS students' movement into each college. The majority of UP colleges will offer 1-credit FYS courses: this group includes Arts and Architecture, Business, Communications, Education, Engineering, Health and Human Development and Nursing, and Science. More than one type of FYS can be offered, and some of these colleges also will offer 2-credit and 3-credit FYS courses in some majors or during LEAP: this group includes Arts and Architecture, Education, and Health and Human Development and Nursing. Other UP colleges will offer 2-credit and 3-credit FYS courses: Agricultural Sciences, Earth and Mineral Sciences, and Information Sciences and Technology. The College of the Liberal Arts will offer 3-credit FYS courses.

FTCAP plays an important role in all of the UP college plans and clearly represents a valuable orientation to the University and to University-level study. In addition, the UP colleges will offer a variety of annual activities such as orientation programs, special living options, field trips, and information sessions on topics such as careers and internships, study abroad, opportunities for undergraduate research, academic integrity, e-Portfolio, health & wellness, and attendance by students at events such as the library open house/tour, museum tours, arts-related events, and speakers on campus. DUS, in addition to developing and delivering FTCAP for all University Park students, provides all DUS students with a number of activities designed to meet the FYE Faculty Senate legislation.

Commonwealth Campuses

The Senate's FYE legislation does not mandate that Commonwealth campuses offer and require a First-Year Seminar. Nevertheless, several campuses chose the First-Year Seminar option. Berks, DuBois, Erie, Fayette, Harrisburg, Hazleton, Mont Alto, Schuylkill, and Shenango will offer FYS courses, in various formats: Berks, 3+1 linked format (1- credit FYS); DuBois, 1-credit FYS most prevalent, with some 3-credit FYS; Erie, 1-credit FYS most prevalent, with several 3- to 4-credit FYSs (*enr. & biology*); Fayette, 1-credit FYS; Harrisburg, 3-cr. FYS gen. ed. course (*ex: ENGL 015S*) or 1-credit FYS academic focus (*ex: CAP 110S*); Hazleton (1-credit FYS; Mont Alto, some assoc. degree programs a 1- to 3-credit introductory course, remaining students a 1-credit FYS (PSU 008S); Schuylkill, a 1-credit FYS; and Shenango, a 1-credit FYS.

Other campuses have chosen to require not FYS, but other types of small courses taught by full-time faculty: this group includes Abington, Altoona, Beaver, Brandywine, Greater Allegheny, Lehigh Valley, New Kensington, Wilkes-Barre, Worthington Scranton, and York. As each plan is locally differentiated, only a few examples will be briefly mentioned. At Abington, 1-3-credit courses in a variety of areas will be provided; at New Kensington, all first-year students will be advised into "freshman focus" classes, of which 14 will be available; at Wilkes-Barre, first-year students will take a small, faculty-taught course in composition, math, general education, or an introduction to a major.

As at University Park, all of the campuses will offer a variety of First-Year Engagement activities such as orientation programs, special living options, field trips, and information sessions on topics such as careers and internships, study abroad, opportunities for undergraduate research, academic integrity, e-Portfolio, health & wellness, and attendance by students at events such as the library open house/tour, museum tours, arts-related events, and speakers on campus. Again as at University Park, FTCAP plays an important role in all of the campus plans and clearly represents a valuable orientation to the University and to University-level study.

Degree Audits

A topic that repeatedly arose during discussions of FYE plans concerned how students' degree audits would reflect their having satisfied First-Year Seminar expectations, now that First-Year Seminars are not necessarily required at all locations.

Students who were admitted to degree status prior to summer 2009 will retain the FYS requirement on the degree audit. For students admitted for summer 2009 and subsequently, degree audits will display one of these three messages:

1. *First-Year Seminar: Take 1 Credit Minimum in First-Year Seminar*
This is a check for the completion of an FYS course for the UP colleges and for the campuses that require it. It is the same entry that has been used in the past on the degree audit.

2. *First-Year Seminar Not Required at Current Campus*
This is a message displayed on the degree audit for students at campuses that do not require an FYS course.
3. *First-Year Seminar Not Required*
This is a message displayed on the degree audit for students who, after completing 24 or more cumulative credits, change to a campus that requires an FYS course; given the number of credits they have already completed, such students do not need to take an FYS. This message will also be displayed on the degree audit for advanced standing students (admit type 02) and provisional/nondegree-to-degree students (admit type 10).

Students who change campuses after completing fewer than 24 cumulative credits will have either message #1 or #2 displayed on their degree audit, depending on whether the new campus requires an FYS course or not.

Next Steps

The Joint Senate/Administrative Review Committee on the Implementation of First-Year Engagement Plans, its task completed, has been discharged. According to the April 2008 Senate legislation, FYE will next be reviewed in five years. Between now and then, we hope that Senators and other colleagues will participate in FYE at their colleges and campus locations, and help to add to its success.

2008-2009 Joint Senate/Administrative Committee on First-Year Engagement Implementation

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FYE Plan Summaries

March 25, 2009

UNIVERSITY PARK COLLEGES

College	FYS Offerings	Supplemental Programming <i>.....in addition to FTCAP advising</i>	DUS Students
AG SCI	2-credit AG 150S <i>(most students)</i> or 3-credit VB SC 050S <i>(students in Vet. & Biomedical Sciences)</i>	Annual large “College Student Organizational Informational Fair,” numerous sessions in the Fall on study abroad, info. on undergraduate research opportunities, “Meet & Get to Know the Dean,” and “College of Ag Sciences Alumni-affiliated” sessions or events, to list a few.	Regardless of semester, Ag. Sci. welcomes DUS students in its AG 150S and foresees greater DUS participation. DUS students can also take VB SC 050S, although not many choose it.
A & A	11 different FYSs from 1 to 4 credits <i>(attachment A)</i>	Orientation programs, co-curricular activities, gallery talks & lectures series, “career days,” student & faculty performances, special living options, field trips, competitions, vertical studios, and numerous other scheduled events & functions.	Art History 001 is the designated FYS for DUS students. It is the College’s intent to meet the demand of all DUS students.
BUS	1-credit FYS	Series of social/academic preparation activities—college meetings, student mentors, welcome BBQ, FYS guest speakers, majors panel night, scheduled social, involvement fair, study abroad, advising center, college BIG event with faculty, Smeal EXPLORE (planning stages for transitional students).	Reserve 10-12 spaces apiece in 40 FYS Fall semester sections. The remaining target cohort will be accommodated in summer sections of FYS & LEAP.
COMM	1-credit FYS	Students complete 6 of 10 additional FYE activities related to the field of communications and/or specific majors: <i>University activities</i> —library open house/tour, museum tour, arts-related events, Distinguished Speaker Series, etc. <i>College activities</i> —conferences & lectures, career fair, study abroad & internship info., iStudy module on academic integrity, e-Portfolio, student-run clubs, etc. Students will leave feedback on ANGEL.	For each COMM seminar offered, a “D” section will be reserved for DUS students. This, in conjunction with summer LEAP offerings, will meet the target number.

College	FYS Offerings	Supplemental Programming <i>.....in addition to FTCAP advising</i>	DUS Students
EMS	3-credit EM SC 100S <i>(also approved as a GWS gen. ed. course)</i>	TOTEMS (Total Orientation Trip in EMS)—4-day orientation/team-building experience, combining incoming students with faculty & upper-division undergrad. mentors.	Will support all interested DUS students in EM SC 100S.
ED	3-credit FYS as part of LEAP. All other FYSs are 1 credit.	Students will be required to attend 3 College of Education events—Dean’s Ice Cream Social; Wellness Fair (CAPS, Disability Services, alcohol awareness, etc.); and Academic & Career Fair (libraries, int’l. programs, technology, etc.).	Each of the 20 FYS sections will have 4 seats reserved for DUS students.
ENGR	1-credit FYS	By May 09, the FYE task force will finalize the components of its courses and support service & networking activities, with full implementation in FA 09. Includes EDSGN courses, major & minor nights, internship or int’l. opportunities, day-planner, orientation/mentoring programs (design competitions, scavenger hunts, picnics, ice cream socials, and presentations).	Will ensure that sufficient numbers of FYS sections are offered for all projected engineering majors and DUS students.
HHD & Nursing	1-credit FYS—but provide a variety of 2- & 3-credit course formats to fulfill requirement <i>(ex: JumpStart, 2 credits)</i> . Interdisciplinary health FYS also being developed.	Initiatives focus on unique collaboration of interdisciplinary programs enhancing quality of life utilizing the College’s new student center; learning communities for service learning, civic engagement, career exploration; advising and orientation programs; and sustainability programs on health & human development.	Split registration format will continue which reserves 100 seats for DUS students.
IST	3-credit FYS	New student orientation session to discuss extracurricular programs, student clubs, internships, advising, international engagement, etc. Office of Diversity, Outreach & International Engagement offers a mentor program for incoming students. Both programs are voluntary. College also assigns an advanced student “mentor” for FYS courses.	Will hold seats open in IST 110S for the approximate number of DUS students assigned to IST.

College	FYS Offerings	Supplemental Programming <i>.....in addition to FTCAP advising</i>	DUS Students
LA	3-credit FYS <i>(gen. ed. courses in humanities or social sciences)</i>	Students will be introduced to library resources, ANGEL, learning & tutoring centers, etc. Additional events students will be expected to attend — 50-min. session on academic integrity & Penn State Principles; 75-min. session outlining majors & minors; 50-min. session on College outside-the-classroom opportunities (study abroad, internships, etc.); and 50- to 90-min. session encouraging attendance at cultural & intellectual events.	LA has been asked to plan for 232 DUS students, but will accommodate up to 240 by setting aside special sections of English 15 (which meets FYE requirements). Students will also attend 4 additional events stipulated in supplemental programming. DUS supports this plan.
SCI	1-credit FYS	<i>Special programs</i> —Pennypacker Experience Dormitory; Race Relations Project; co-op, study abroad & internship programs; and tutoring. <i>Sponsored activities</i> —open house in spring; welcome luncheon; advising center workshop, seminar on health professional school applications, and lecture series. Also encourage 7 College-sponsored student organizations.	Actual College FYS enrollment data for DUS students is much lower than target number; all have been accepted into FYSs. College doesn't anticipate larger numbers, so data indicate that they are meeting the expected demand with current FYS offerings.

CAMPUS LOCATIONS

Campus	FYS Required?	If no , how will small-classroom experiences taught by full-time faculty members be achieved for first-year students?	If yes , FYS Offerings	Supplemental Programming <i>.....in addition to FTCAP advising</i>
Abington	no	1- to 3-credit courses in a variety of areas. Peers will be assigned to each class.		Introduction of academic/co-curricular passport system where students attend 2 events of the following—academic enrichment, academic survival skills, personal development, leadership development, and campus-wide programs. Monitored through peer mentors and electronic swipe system.

Campus	FYS Required?	If no , how will small-classroom experiences taught by full-time faculty members be achieved for first-year students?	If yes , FYS Offerings	Supplemental Programming <i>.....in addition to FTCAP advising</i>
Altoona	no	Almost all students currently take a small 3-credit class. In the future, every student will be required to do so during the first year.		Require all students to use ANGEL during academic orientation and to receive later academic info. Required to attend 7 events & write brief accounts in areas such as study abroad, learning resource center, health & wellness center, library, student life, career services, diversity, academic integrity, student senate, and internships.
Beaver	no	1-credit disciplinary course or a 3-credit S model course.		New Student Day before classes start—structured activities, peer mentors, support service info., academic integrity, Center for Academic Achievement, diversity, ROAR, etc. Day culminates with a Gateway Clipper river dance cruise, shared w/new students from Greater Allegheny, New Kensington, and Shenango. First-Year Experience Web provides critical “need to know” info. During semester, student organization & community service fairs are offered.
Berks	yes		3+1 linked format (1-credit FYS)	Variety of activities—intensive orientation program; co-curricular workshops such as career planning, technology, etc; early advising meetings; cultural & diversity events; and community lecture series.
Brandywine	no	All first-year students will be required to schedule a 3-credit small class taught by a full-time faculty member.		Various campus resources—library, writing center, math center, learning center, and advising/career center. All sections of small courses cover academic integrity. Other workshops offered—“One Campus, One Book” program, library workshops, Bell Lecture Series, advising workshops, learning center workshops on test taking, etc.

Campus	FYS Required?	If no , how will small-classroom experiences taught by full-time faculty members be achieved for first-year students?	If yes , FYS Offerings	Supplemental Programming <i>.....in addition to FTCAP advising</i>
DuBois	no	All students take one, or a combination, of: 1-credit FYS; 3-credit gen. ed. course; 1- to 3-credit discipline-specific course.		Student Activities Passport Program—programs including diversity & int'l. activities. Postcards are stamped at events. If attending a certain number, students receive full credit for this part of FYE. Other programs include time & stress management, substance abuse awareness, etc.
Erie	yes		1-credit FYS most prevalent, with several 3- to 4-credit FYSS (<i>engr. & biology</i>)	Freshman Advising Module (FAM) on ANGEL to address FYS goals. Three-day academic orientation in Fall; topics reinforced in each FYS. First-Year Interest Groups (FIGs) are offered, each consisting of the FYS and a second class (e.g. ENGL 015) in which all students take both with an upper-class mentor. All sections of ENGL 015 & ENGL 030 have been refined to support the FYE goals & objectives.
Fayette	yes		1-credit FYS	Variety of activities, including freshman orientation, discussions of reading "One Community, One Book"; and workshops in career planning & internships, student activities, and community engagement. Provisional students take EDPSYCH 014 (Learning Instruction).
Greater Allegheny	no	All first-year students will be required to schedule a 3- or 4-credit small class taught by a full-time faculty member (<i>exception—selected counselor ed. & study skill courses</i>).		Orientation includes required activities & seminars—library, learning center, student activities, study abroad, academic integrity, financial aid, career counseling, and acclimation to college life (time management, health services, etc.). Additional events include info. on research activities and the Teaching International program.

Campus	FYS Required?	If no , how will small-classroom experiences taught by full-time faculty members be achieved for first-year students?	If yes , FYS Offerings	Supplemental Programming <i>.....in addition to FTCAP advising</i>
Harrisburg	yes		3-cr. FYS gen. ed. course <i>(ex: ENGL 015S)</i> or 1-credit FYS academic focus <i>(ex: CAP 110S)</i>	Summer reading book assigned (incorporated into ENGL & CAS courses); peer mentor program in each FYS section; many co-curricular opportunities in academic, social, cultural, and wellness administered by learning center coordinator—students required to attend at least 3.
Hazleton	yes		1-credit FYS	Series of workshops coordinated with FYS classes on academic integrity, career planning, stress, eLION, test-taking, computer literacy, library resources, working effectively in groups, etc. Students are required to attend.
Lehigh Valley	no	3 FYE courses are being created: <i>CAS 100B (3 credits)</i> <i>HDFS 287X (3 credits)</i> <i>ADTED 100S (1 credit for adult learners).</i>		Orientation includes workshops, seminars & groups. Students attend monthly themed programs and bi-weekly discussion groups and submit 1-page journal assignments to provide for reflection and growth. Groups mentored by faculty member, staff member, and student leader. Plan incorporates global perspectives and newspaper readership program. Important component includes encouragement of family support as well.
Mont Alto	no	<i>Some assoc. degree programs—</i> 1- to 3-credit introductory course. <i>Remaining students—</i> 1-credit FYS online course (PSU 008S) or in-class FYS.		Special FYSs are offered for honors students, Discover House program, and JumpStart. Continue offering Personal Achievement Workshop Series (PAWS) with over 25 topics ranging from test anxiety, memory skills, computing, finances, drugs & alcohol, library, self-esteem, writing, job search, human networking, goal setting, etc.

Campus	FYS Required?	If no , how will small-classroom experiences taught by full-time faculty members be achieved for first-year students?	If yes , FYS Offerings	Supplemental Programming <i>.....in addition to FTCAP advising</i>
New Kensington	no	All first-year students will be advised into at least one, with preference to two, "freshman focus" small classes taught by full-time faculty members. (14 classes available.)		Advisor & college meetings. Topical workshops & presentations on library resources, study skills & time management, academic integrity & ethics, financial aid, and alcohol & substance abuse. These workshops will be extended and reinforced by a series of Freshman Colloquia throughout the Fall semester.
Schuylkill	no	All first-year students will take at least one small class taught by a full-time faculty member.		All students will take a 1-credit FYE course focusing on transitional issues. Students will also make use of the learning center and participate in a year-long film series & discussion, as well as social, cultural & intellectual events. Students also complete a year-long First-Year Class Project (service learning).
Shenango	no	All first-year students will take a modified PSU 008 1-credit course, which includes Academic Orientation, a variety of applicable tasks, and passing a final exam.		PSU 008 will cover topics such as ANGEL, eLION, study skills, time management, research papers, campus tours, stress management, retention, library & learning tools, campus organizations, etc. Students will be able to accomplish such tasks as designing an academic plan, identifying academic dishonesty, demonstrating ability to work in groups, using technology, becoming proficient in time management, etc.
Wilkes-Barre	no	All first-year students will take one or more small class taught by a full-time faculty member in either an intro. to major course, composition course, math course, and/or gen. ed. course.		Orientation to the learning center, career counseling, study abroad, etc. All courses for first-year students will cover academic integrity. During first year, all students will be required to attend a minimum of 3 small-group workshops on topics such as study skills, time management, test-taking, depression, alcohol & substance abuse, etc. Students in ENGL, BUS, or IST will have a library lesson and/or assignment.

Campus	FYS Required?	If no , how will small-classroom experiences taught by full-time faculty members be achieved for first-year students?	If yes , FYS Offerings	Supplemental Programming <i>.....in addition to FTCAP advising</i>
Worthington Scranton	no	All first-year students will take at least one small class taught by a full-time faculty member. Classes include, but not limited to, ENGL 004 & 015 and PHIL 083S.		Courses will include info. on academic integrity. Sessions are held on eLION, ANGEL, advising. Orientation includes academic convocation with faculty & student speakers, ice breakers, college meetings, advising appointments, and an outside activity (such as a baseball game). Students receive info. on career services, health services, student government, student activities, tutoring, and athletics.
York	no	All first-year students will take at least one small class taught by a full-time faculty member. Classes will be specially designated.		Success Program (engages minority students); new student orientation; survival workshops (eLION, ANGEL, computer skills, etc.); Nittany Success Center Workshops (study skills, writing & math center, etc.); library instruction; college meetings; Take Charge Program (identifies students in academic difficulty). Also offer informal lunchtime opportunities to meet with faculty.

ATTACHMENT A

First-Year Seminars College of Arts and Architecture

Architecture

Arch 131s – 4 credits – studio format

Art History

Art H 001s – 3 credits – lecture/seminar format

Integrative Arts

Graphic Design 001s – 1 credit – seminar format

Landscape Architecture

Larch 121s – 1 credit – seminar format, concurrent with studio course 151 – Introduction to Design Visualization

Music

Mus 040s – 1 credit – for Music Ed students –seminar format

Mus 119s – 2 credit – for BA students - studio/seminar format

Mus 129s – 3 credit – for Performance (BM and BMA)students –
studio/seminar format

Mus 173s – 2 credit – for Composition students – studio/seminar format

Theatre

Thea 001s – 1 credit seminar/practicum format

Visual Arts

Art 110s – 3 credits – studio format

AEd 101s – 3 credits – seminar format