

First-Year Council Agenda
Thursday, September 21, 2023 from 1:30-2:30pm via Zoom

Membership of First-Year Council for 2023-2024 *(listed alphabetically)*

Rotating Members

Dr. Minor Baker, COE (member through 2024)
Dr. Stephen Berkwitz, CHPA (member through 2024)
Crystal Dicke, LIBR (member through 2025)
Dr. Toby Dogwiler, CNAS (member through 2024)
Scott Handley, Honors College (member through 2024)
Aubrey Hardy, Student Representative, Special Needs Ed major
Rob Moore, Student Affairs (member through 2024)
Dr. Linda Moser, COAL (member through 2025)
Dr. Sarah Murray, CHHS (member through 2025)
Carly Pierson, COB (member through 2025)
Dr. Christi Sudbrock, COA (member through 2025)

Ex-Officio Members

Dr. Kelly Wood, Associate Provost, Student Success (standing member)

Dr. Tracey Glaessgen, Associate Director, Center for Academic Success and Transition (standing member)

Council Charge: To advise the Executive Director and Associate Director, Center for Academic Success and Transition on initiatives involving the first-year experience (FYE) at Missouri State University. These initiatives include, but are not limited to: 1) developing overarching goals for the first-year seminar course, 2) ensuring the course is designed to increase academic skill building, public affairs awareness, and campus connections, 3) evaluating the effectiveness of the first-year seminar course and recommending changes based upon assessment data, and 4) serving as a liaison with other departments/colleges/student affairs as part of a larger effort to inform and address issues involving first-year students.

Agenda

- I. Convene meeting—
 - Welcome to Aubrey Hardy
 - Members in attendance: Toby Dogwiler, Scott Handley, Aubrey Hardy, Rob Moore, Linda Moser, Sarah Murray, Carly Pierson, Christi Sudbrock, Kelly Wood, Tracey Glaessgen
- II. Updates
 - GEP 101 By the numbers
 - *Highlights from 2023 include:*
 - *65 instructors teaching the course, which includes 34 faculty, 27 staff, 3 FYP graduate teaching assistants, and 1 CAST staff.*

- 2407 students were registered in the course at semester's start.
 - 80 sections (78 blended; 2 online; all 12-week blended).
 - 26 classrooms utilized across campus in 13 different buildings.
 - 28 peer leaders
 - Workshops
 - 2 options for primary required instructor workshop
 - 9 workshops with rotating topics (min. 1 required)
 - 4 additional workshops focused on the new textbooks
- GEP 101 Customized Textbook –streamlinED
 - GEP 101 is in its third year of using the College Success customized textbook from FlatWorld and its second year of using it via StreamlinED.
- Vetted assignment review from spring
 - The feedback from instructors with combining two previous assignments (diversity reflection and public affairs conference reflection) into a more robust but one assignment with the public affairs project reflection has been very favorable.
- Request for feedback-- Grammarly for Education
 - Dr. Ken Brown, Chief Academic Strategy Officer, requested feedback from GEP 101 instructors regarding the use of Grammarly for Education. Dr. Glaessgen sent an email to current instructors requesting their thoughts/perspective/feedback.
 - Breakdown in number of comments: 5 faculty, 4 staff, 1 graduate teaching assistant, 3 first-year council members plus a discussion today with First-Year Council members.
 - Summary—Most people noted that they were concerned about student equity and access to the resource, so if it's provided by the university, it would alleviate that concern. Other comments were centered around embracing technology, but noting that instructor support and training would be key to guide students to use effectively. The last concern was focused upon the cost for the program and if it was the best use of monies.
- Update to Bb videos—instructor choice—optional for online portion of hybrid course
 - Emergency Preparedness
 - 🔗 David Hall, Director, University Safety and his team created a couple of videos for GEP 101 as additional but optional resources to share with their students for the online learning component.
 - LinkedIn Learning—coming soon
 - 🔗 LinkedIn Learning may serve as an optional resource for instructors to share with their students for the online learning component. More information to come.

III. Discussion

- GEP 101 Fall 2023 twelve-week blended snapshot
 - In its second year as a twelve-week blended course, GEP 101 meets twice per week for 50 minutes and has 30 minutes of online learning.
- Request for class content
 - Voter literacy modules/civic engagement

