

**First-Year Council Notes**  
**Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2020 from 11:00-noon via Zoom**

**Membership of First-Year Council for 2020-2021** *(listed alphabetically)*

**Rotating Members**

Dr. Denise Baumann, Student Affairs (member through 2020)  
Ms. Alexis Butler, Student Representative, Hospitality Leadership major  
Ms. Sierra Chitwood, Student Representative, SAHE masters program  
Dr. Jeffrey Cornelius-White, COE (member through 2020)  
Ms. Crystal Gale, LIBR (member through 2022)  
Mr. Scott Handley, Honors College (member through 2022)  
Dr. Stephanie Hein, CNAS (member through 2020)  
Dr. Linda Moser, COAL (member through 2022)  
Ms. Sarah Murray, CHHS (member through 2022)  
Dr. Christi Sudbrock, COA (member through 2022)  
Ms. Carly Pierson, COB (member through 2022)  
TBD, CHPA (member through 2022)

**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)

**DRAFT Council Charge (To Be Approved):** 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—
- II. Approval of minutes from last meeting  
*FYC has decided to review notes after the meeting and vote upon them*
- III. Approval of council charge  
*Please review the Council Charge and let me know if you have any suggested wording changes*
- IV. Updates/Discussion:
  - GEP 101 By the numbers  
*Please see attached PDF that lists the number of sections, instructor numbers, and support workshops*
  - GEP 101 Fall 2020 first block/blended snapshot  
*For fall 2020, GEP 101 was primarily offered as a first-block blended course, which meant that the course met for 2 hours seated with 2 hours online materials (blackboard discussions, videos, etc). To accommodate for social distancing, sections were either offered in a large lecture hall classroom or seated/Zoom. Sections that utilized Zoom were either with ½ students in the classroom with the other ½ zooming in or ½ students in one classroom with the other ½ zooming in next door. Instructors were asked which*

*teaching style they preferred. Anecdotal observations included recognizing that students were stressed with keeping track of all of their classes' modality. Additional comments included the volume of work that was covered in the course in 8 weeks as well as uncertainty as to students watching the videos. Tracey commented that she has her students maintain a video log that the students then have to utilize for class discussions. Though the course will conclude this week, instructors and Peer Leaders will still continue to offer support with a minimum of three reach outs (post midterm grade reports, week 12 or 13, and prefinals week.*

- GEP 101 Pre-registration for SOAR  
*Though the delivery of SOAR switched from in person to virtual, the pre-registration process did not switch.*
- GEP 101 Blackboard course shell  
*No discussion*
- Common Reader selection committee  
*Since GEP 101 has been and is the largest consumer of the common reader and with the transition with Dr. Rachelle Darabi's retirement and replacement with Dr. Keri Franklin and Dr. Kelly Wood, we will move from a selection committee to an advisory committee, and possibly include the Provost Fellow for the Public Affairs Conference, to present the top picks with First-Year Programs making the selection. More details to follow.*
- Textbook Selection subcommittee  
*As a result of last year's discussion to review FYE related textbooks, a small committee was formed with 3 members of First-Year Council and 2 additional GEP 101 instructors. The committee established criteria to consider, reviewed the books, and then provided feedback to narrow the list even further. We have our top two contenders, so Tracey will begin the discussion with the publishing reps/bookstore in order to address committee questions.*
- Assessment with CGEIP/Course Evaluations  
*For fall 2020, course evaluations will be offered electronically. In an effort to increase the response rate, instructors are asked to allow for the first 10-15 minutes of class for students to complete the evaluation.*
- Center for Academic Success and Transition
  - Academic Care Team— faculty/staff referral and student) self-referral  
*Currently, the Academic Care Team has 120 cases, which is approximately a 20% increase from last year at this time. We have had more students submit a self-referral form. To continue to support the academic coaching needs, our 3 graduate teaching assistants will transition to academic coaching for the second half of the semester.*
  - Signal Vine Messaging  
*We continue to utilize Signal Vine messaging. Plus, through funding from MOCAN, Missouri College Access Network, students who are first-generation, black or latinX or pell grant eligible may receive wi-fi hot spots and/or electronic devices. Contact Kelly with any specific questions.*
  - Title III Grant  
*The university recently learned that we have awarded a \$525,000 grant with a focus upon first-generation students. We will utilize GEP 101 students as a starting point and focus upon offering FG faculty training for the FG dedicated*

*sections and hiring additional success coaches and peer mentors. More details to follow.*

V. Other discussion items?

- Members (Dr. Denise Baumann, Dr. Jef Cornelius-White, Dr. Stephanie Hein) rotating off—many thanks for your service!

VI. Next meeting—

*Tues. Dec. 8 at 11:00am via Zoom*