

First-Year Council
September 12, 3:00pm, University Hall 113

Membership of First-Year Council for 2013–14 (listed alphabetically)

Rotating Members

Dr. Sam Dyer, Professor, COAL (member through 2014)
 Dr. Clay Franklin, Associate Professor, CHHS (member through 2016)
 Dr. Olen Greer, Professor, COB (member through 2015)
 Crystal Gale, Associate Professor, LIBR (chair through 2014)
 Scott Handley, Assistant Director, Honors College (member through 2014)
 Dr. Thomas Lane, Assistant Vice President Student Life (member through 2016)
 Miranda Minor, Student Representative (member through 2014)
 Dr. Jim Moyer, Professor, CHPA (member through 2014)
 Dr. Cheryl Wrinkle, Senior Instructor, CNAS (member through 2014)

Ex-Officio Members

Dr. Rachelle Darabi, Associate Provost, Student Development and Public Affairs (standing member)
 Dr. Mike Wood, Director, First-Year Programs (standing member)

Council Charge: To advise the Director of First-Year Programs and the Associate Provost for Student Development and Public Affairs on initiatives involving the first-year experience (FYE) at Missouri State University. This includes, but is not limited to: 1) developing a first-year philosophy statement and over-arching goals for the program; 2) evaluating the effectiveness of GEP 101, and making recommendations to the Director concerning changes to the course designed to increase academic excellence, enhance student success, and integrate the public affairs mission; 3) providing assistance with the learning communities and common reader programs; 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

Meeting was called to order at 3:02..

- I. Approval of minutes from spring 2014
 - Jim called for a motion to approve the minutes as submitted; Scott seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- II. First-Year Programs updates: Mike Wood
 - a. Instructor staffing update, fall 2014
 - See handout distributed via email
 - b. First-generation/college designated sections
 - Board of Governor interest in first-generation students prompted eight first generation college specific sections, one per college and two for undecided students
 - Students who self-identified as first generation
 - Students who were pell grant/non-pell grant eligible
 - Students who had varying levels of ACT scores
 - Sections taught by the following:
 - COAL—Tracy Dalton
 - CNAS—Mark Richter
 - CHHS—David Johnson
 - COE—Gilbert Brown
 - COB—Rob Moore
 - CHPA—Diane Leamy

- Undecided—Michael Frizell
- Undecided—Tracey Glaessgen

- III. Discussion about possible course changes, and/or response to President’s mention of GEP 101 in [Eight Goals](#) for 2014-2015.
- a. What is meant by a “signature” class?
 - b. Does President Smart have an accurate picture of how “Public Affairs intensive” the class already is?
 - i. E.g., PA Week, PA Conference, attendance at other “signature” events, PA service projects, service-learning with local community partners, volunteer work, common reader assignments based upon PA, etc.
 - c. Is this more of an “education/ PR issue” rather than a course re-design? Implications of course just approved for new gen. ed program (2014)
 - d. Options:
 - i. Meet with the President to 1) gain better understanding of what he means by wanting a “signature class”; 2) explain what already occurs in the course
 - ii. Options: Should we require “x” hours of service for all sections? E.g., 4 hours, Public Affairs service activity.
 - iii. Communicate/highlight more involvement of the PA mission across sections
 - General discussion:
 - Perhaps this meeting with President Smart will result in ways to deal with the university-wide perception of GEP
 - Provide President Smart with overview of current goals and objectives
 - Importance of gaining a greater understanding of what the President means by signature course
 - Ways to improve course perception:
 - Submit annual written report of First-Year Programs(FYP) to president
 - Publicize accomplishments of FYP
 - Public Affairs Service Project—perhaps require every student to complete four hours of service
 - Provide additional public affairs assignments/classroom activities. QIP faculty to provide feedback/ideas? (One QIP faculty member teaches GEP 101)
 - Peer leader program
 - Recruitment of key faculty
 - Submit highlights to provost communique’, KSMU
- IV. Other items for discussion?
- In response to the university’s Title 9 compliance, it is important to reach out to first-year students in GEP classes to help them gain a better understanding of the bystander effect.
- V. Next meeting TBA
- Anticipated—after fall break with monthly meetings thereafter

Meeting was adjourned at 3:58.