

First-Year Council Minutes
Friday, Oct. 1, 2021 from 1:00-2:00pm via Zoom

Membership of First-Year Council for 2021-2022 *(listed alphabetically)*

Rotating Members

Dr. Minor Baker, COE (member through 2024))
Dr. Stephen Berkwitz, CHPA (member through 2024)
Ms. Crystal Dicke, LIBR (member through 2022)
Dr. Toby Dogwiler, CNAS (member through 2024)
Mr. Scott Handley, Honors College (member through 2024)
Mr. Rob Moore, Student Affairs (member through 2024)
Dr. Linda Moser, COAL (member through 2022)
Ms. Sarah Murray, CHHS (member through 2022)
Ms. Carly Pierson, COB (member through 2022)
Dr. Christi Sudbrock, COA (member through 2022)
Ms. Georgia Grace Wright, Student Representative, COM major

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 new student representative, Georgia Grace Wright
Members in attendance: Crystal Dicke, Toby Dogwiler, Scott Handley, Rob Moore, Sarah Murray, Christi Sudbrock, Georgia Grace Wright, Kelly Wood, Tracey Glaessgen
Members not in attendance: Minor Baker, Stephen Berkwitz, Linda Moser, Carly Pierson
- II. Updates
 - GEP 101 Pre-registration for SOAR
First-Year Programs continued with the summer preregistration process again and partnered with SOAR, Admissions, Registrar, Academic Advising and Transfer Center to preregister approximately 2200 students. A debriefing meeting in September resulted in a few minor adjustments to the planned process for summer 2023.
 - GEP 101 By the numbers
 - *Highlights from 2021 include:*
 - *67 instructors taught the course, which includes 31 faculty, 31 staff, 4 FYP graduate teaching assistants, and 1 FYP staff.*
 - *2295 students were registered in the course on day 1.*

- 75 sections (72 blended; 3 online; all first block).
 - 29 classrooms utilized across campus in 14 different buildings.
 - 30 peer leaders
 - Workshops
 - 2 options for primary required instructor workshop
 - 13 workshops with rotating topics (min. 1 required)
 - 3 additional workshops focused on the new textbooks
 - 2 workshops offered for Peer Leaders (primary workshop required with 1 optional workshop)
- GEP 101 New Textbook

GEP 101 implemented the new textbook that resulted from the GEP 101 textbook selection committee, which included both First-Year Council members and GEP 101 instructors. The textbook allowed for customization features and offered both digitally and print. Since this was the first time that a digital textbook was used, there was some confusion on how to access the book. First-Year Programs will seek feedback from the instructors and students on course content and delivery process via course evaluations and end-of-course instructor survey. We will strive to improve the process for Fall 2022.
- Assessment with EvaluationKIT (Course Evaluations)

For fall 2021, GEP 101 will utilize EvaluationKIT for course evaluations. Students will have approximately 1.5 weeks to complete their course evaluations and will receive periodic reminders.

III. Discussion

- GEP 101 Fall 2021 first block/blended snapshot
- Discussion—to maintain the current structure of first-block/blended, which requires 2 hours seated and 2 hours online (blackboard discussion boards, videos, etc) plus homework or to return to the full semester, which requires 2 hours seated for 16 weeks.
 - For first block/blended—pros were students tend not to see the usefulness of the course after midterms, some instructors prefer the first block model, instructors reach out to students post first block a minimum of three times (post midterm grades, mid Nov with advising reminder, and final exam)... Cons discussed were VA chapter benefits were reduced for veterans since their course enrollment was perceived as reduced after first 8 weeks, less opportunity to dig into material (such as Information Literacy), same amount of work in half the time...
 - For full semester—pros were some instructors prefer the full semester model, structured continuing support for students post midterms, allows for varied pacing throughout the semester, more versatile. Cons included students tire of the course, full semester commitment from both students/instructors, less practice with taking an online course/component...

Committee will continue the discussion of first-block/blended or full semester at next meeting.

- GEP 101 required assignments

Though the common reader was removed from required curriculum effective fall 2021, there is still some concern over the vast amount of required assignments within the first-block/blended modality. Required assignments include instructor/student 1:1 meeting, annotated bib (for Gen Ed goal Information Literacy), graduation and career-readiness plan, Title IX quiz, service project (either direct service for 2 hours or an indirect service

project), reflection over diversity, equity, and inclusion, public affairs conference reflection (attend two sessions and write a reflection), group activity/project (Gen Ed goal Collaboration) and use of College Success textbook.

- IV. Center for Academic Success and Transition
 - Academic Care Team— faculty/staff referral and student self-referral
No time for discussion
 - Title III Grant--*No time for discussion*
- V. Next meeting—Friday, Dec. 3 @ 1:00pm via Zoom (calendar invite previously sent)