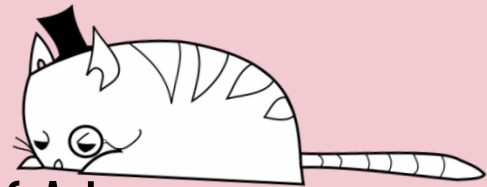


The First-Year Experience: Three Programs, Two Goals, One Campus

Presenters:

Kathleen Lehman
Head, Physics Library, University of Arkansas



Jordan Nielsen
Business Librarian, University of Arkansas





Agenda

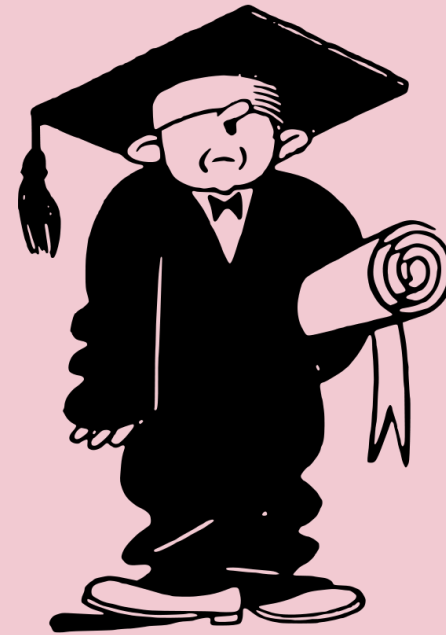
- Overview and history of the three freshmen transition programs
- Details of:
 - Freshmen Engineering Program (FEP)
 - Freshmen Business Connections (FBC)
 - University Perspectives (UP)
- Looking ahead



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Background

- Goals:
 - Increase retention rates
 - Increase graduation rates
- Problems:
 - Our students are not succeeding at the rates at which they are predicted to
 - Our students are not getting connected to the resources they need when they need them.



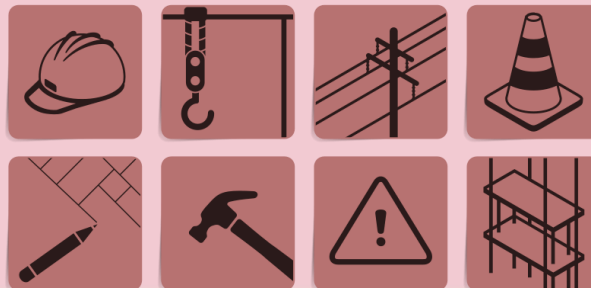
Freshmen Engineering Program - Overview

- History
 - 2007 — 343 students
 - 2013 — 673 students
 - From 1998 — 2006 enrollment averaged 347
 - Since 2007 enrollment averaged 555
- Four Year Graduated or Retained — Averages:
 - 1998 -- 2006: 41% (67.4%)
 - 2007 -- 2009: 48.4% (69.5%)
- Six Year Graduation — Averages:
 - 1998 -- 2006: 37.7% (58.7%)
 - 2007: 44% (63%)



Freshmen Engineering Program - Details

- All 8 departments are involved
- Use student mentors
- 50 students per section
- Complete a series of projects — robotics, biosystems, etc.
- Graduate Assistants can only be students who have graduated from the College of Engineering
- 2 semesters — 1 credit for each semester
- Meet 3 days a week — two lecture sessions, one lab session



Freshmen Business Connections - Overview

- History
 - Started in 2003
 - 2003 — 430 students
 - 2013 — 1,371 students
 - 8,497 students have taken FBC since 2003
- Four Year Graduated or Retained — Averages:
 - 1998-2002: 50.2% (64.7%)
 - 2003-2009: 45.8% (66.4%)
- Six Year Graduation — Averages:
 - 1998-2002: 48.7% (60.2%)
 - 2003-2007: 45.5% (62.5%)



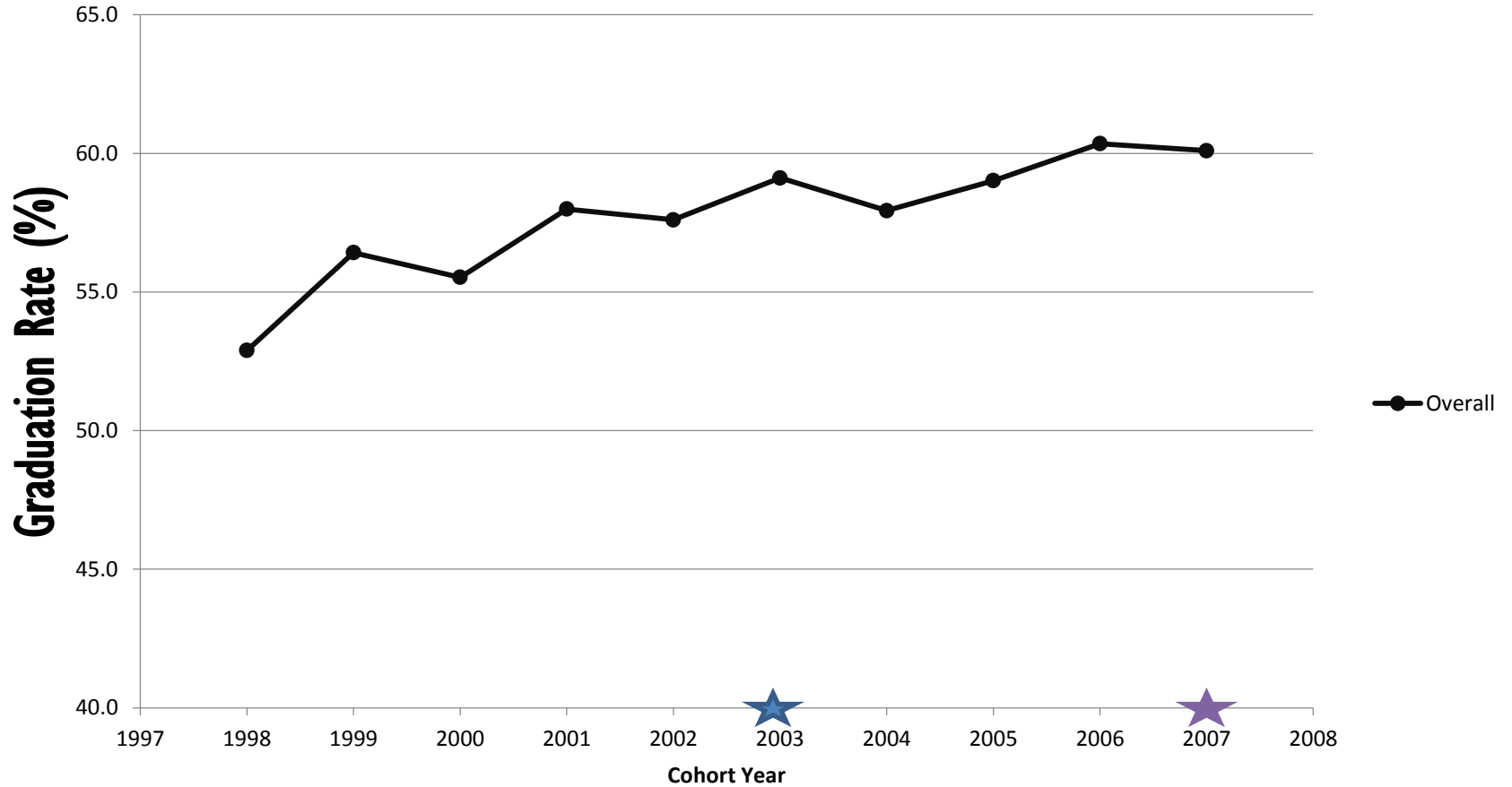
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COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Freshmen Business Connections - Details

- All 7 departments are involved
- Most sections capped at 19 students
- Each section is assisted by a peer mentor who has completed FBC
- FBC instructors serve as advisors
- Classes meet once a week
- Includes guest-speakers from industry and exposure to services such as the career center
- Approximately \$100,000 spent annually on FBC



Six-Year Graduation Rates for University of Arkansas



★ Walton Business Connections started

★ Freshmen Engineering Program started

University Perspectives:

Destination Graduation

- Overview
 - Classes held for the first time Fall 2013
 - Mandatory for traditional, or close to traditional, in-coming freshmen who are not a part of WBC or FEP
 - Program has been given financial and administrative support to run for at least four years.
 - Takes place of earlier, dispersed programs on campus

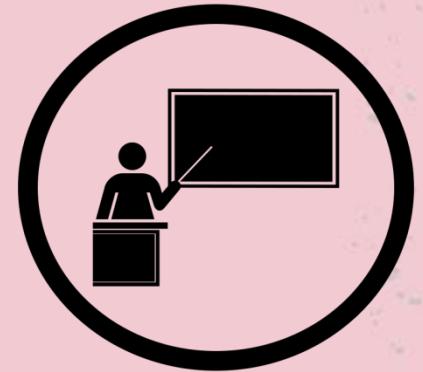
University Perspectives — Details

- 98 sections (Fall 2013)
- 1867 students (Fall 2013)
- Sections capped at 19 students
- 10 required face-to-face meetings
- 13 required online modules via Blackboard
- 26 graduate assistant lines added to manage online components of the course
- One-time money \$550,000 from general reserve



University Perspectives - Course Content

- Core topics (required for every section): critical thinking, time management, study skills, and academic integrity
- Other topics: UA resources, advising/career development, financial literacy, mental health and well-being, UA traditions, civic engagement, and diversity
- Instructors given flexibility to include a volunteer component, guest-speakers, and the One Book, One Community program



Measuring the Success of University Perspectives

What we're hoping for:

- Decrease of student infractions of academic integrity policy
- Decrease of students on Academic Warning (AW) (GPA < 1.5)
- Increased use of University resources (writing center, tutoring center, libraries)
- Increased graduation and retention rates
- Positive direct student feedback

Measuring the Success of University Perspectives

- Slight increase of infractions of academic integrity policy
- Decrease % of students on AW from 2012, increase from 2011
- No granular data from ELC/QWC yet
- No data yet on graduation or retention
- Mixed responses from students (and GAs and Instructors)



Academic Integrity

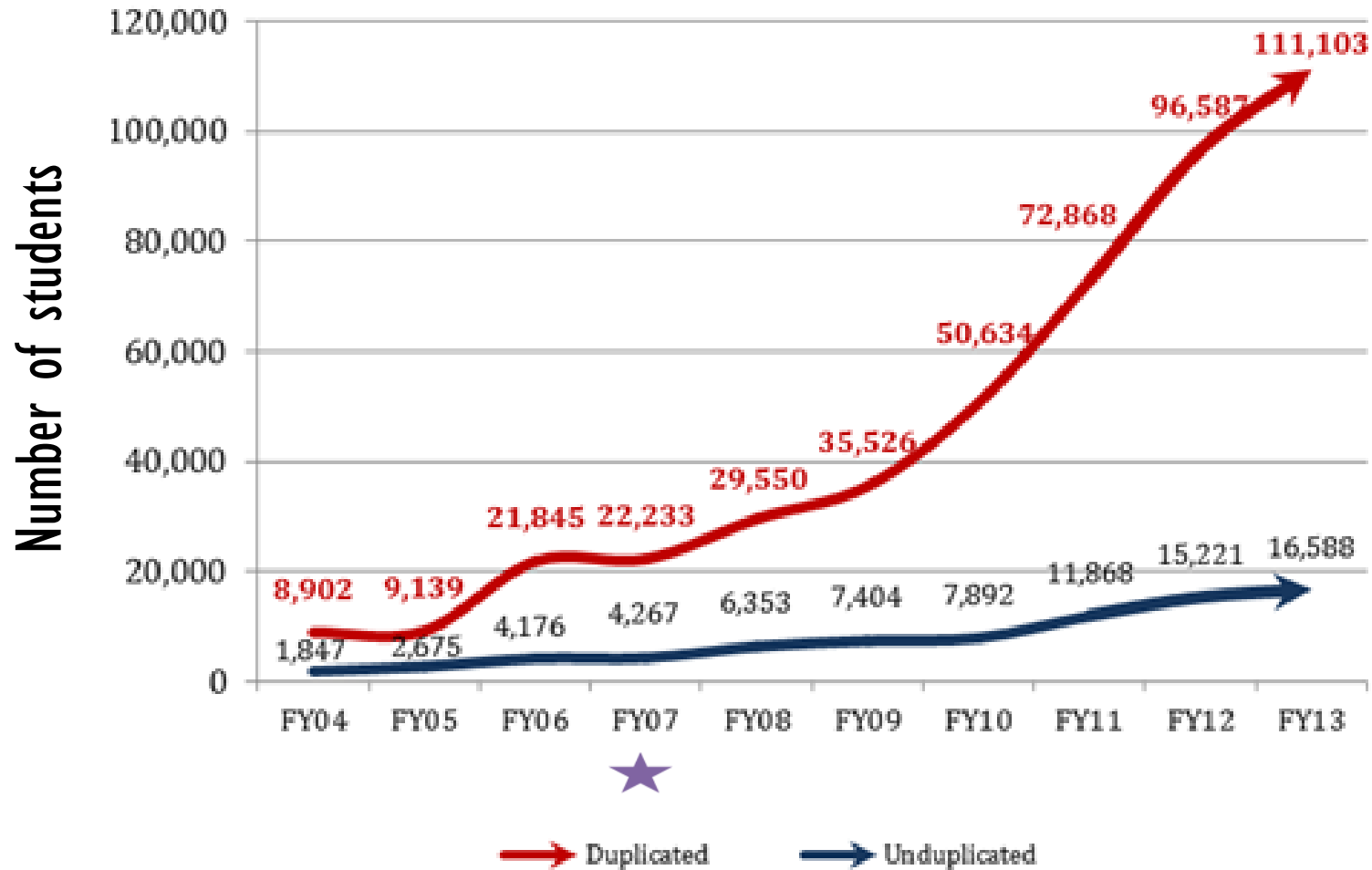
	<u>Fall 2012</u>	<u>Fall 2013</u>
Freshmen Charged:	61	66
Freshmen Enrolled:	4526	4679
% Charged:	1.35%	1.41%
UNIV Colleges/Enrolled	24/NA	36/8
Engineering/Enrolled	19/4	14/0
Business/Enrolled	17/2	13/8
Non-Degree	1	3

Academic Warning

Excluding Engineering and Business Students:

- 191 freshmen on Academic Warning from the first semester
 - 34 made an A or B in University Perspectives
 - 84 made C/D/F
 - 17 withdrew
 - 56 were not enrolled (and 10 were in a different program but switched colleges during the semester)
 - 5.6% of freshmen ended up on AW*
 - 1/3 had received an A, B or C in University Perspectives

Participation of Students in ELC/QWC Sessions by Year



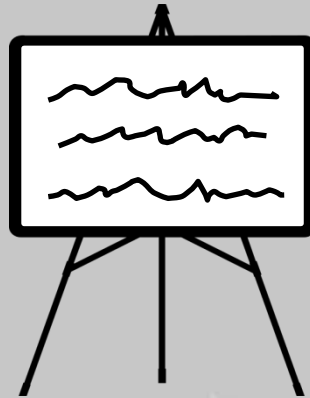
★ Freshmen Engineering Program started

Written Feedback

- Participants liked the small class size and personal connections that were made in the face-to-face component
- Good exposure to campus resources
- Book and modules were mostly rated negatively
- GAs and instructors wanted more training

“I've picked up better study habits, I have felt more at home in school and don't feel like I'm lost on campus.”

“Mr. Nielsen is a great guy and is always available for any questions about anything at the U of A.”



“I have still struggled with [time management] throughout the semester, but I found the one-on-one meeting extremely helpful.”

Changes being considered

- 8 weeks, meeting 2x a week
- 12 face-to-face meetings
- Make sure face-to-face and modules align
- Inviting programs to include the 1 credit hour as an elective in their degree
- Workshops/coordinated effort to share “best practices”
- And also looking to include a measure of self-efficacy for UP students starting next fall



Contact Us!

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