

Lessons from the Redwoods: A New Approach to FYE at a Large Public University
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Vacation in Santa Cruz as the basis for this metaphor.

But first...some History. In 1997, we established a program called 'Freshman Programs' that acted as our FYE.

Over the years, we ramped up our offerings to FP students, giving them access to a computer/study lounge, priority enrollment, personal advising, fun programming, themed housing and more!

These 'activities' were centered on cohorts created in our UNIV 100 course...specifically for FP students.

To improve students' rate of retention and graduation through effective advisement, career counseling and mentoring.

To enhance learning and improve the overall quality of students' first year university experience

UNIV 100

Freshman Programs Themed Housing

Freshman Programs Learning Communities

Fall 2015 Cohort: 577 students

Program core: UNIV 100, a 3-unit elective taught only in Fall

Involves 20-23 faculty

Does have an Advisory Board

Partnership between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs

Reaches 13% of Full Time Freshman

Over half a million dollars in spending, with about one-fifth coming from Student Affairs

Three-quarters of the \$\$ goes into personnel costs

AT CSU-Fullerton, we have Eight Colleges

Maximize \$\$ impact

Increase scale by reaching all Freshman and Transfers

Enhance impact through decentralization and redesign of FYE

Provide a common experience for all FTF drawing from lessons learned from our own past with Freshman Programs

Create a common experience for all FTF by drawing upon national best practices to improve the quality of the FYE at Fullerton, focusing on three goals:

Academic Success, Campus Involvement and Community Engagement

The Interim Director

Re-Imagining FYE:

Decentralize the FYE by having college-based FYE, with faculty coordinators for FYE

Each college to identify a college-required/core course(s), possibly a GE course, to be designated as a FYE course

Redesign the course(s) to include common university FYE outcomes and expectations

Suspend UNIV100, but include success expectations (such as time-management, information literacy, etc.) from UNIV100 in the college-based required course(s) in a different learning format (e.g. podcast)

Provide faculty and staff professional development opportunities for FYE

General Consensus

Do we still need an Office of FYE if we Decentralize?...Yes!

Cultivating 4 Emerging Models

Summation of FYE 2015/2016 Goals

1. Work with Colleges and Division of Student Affairs to reimagine FYE with an eye toward scalability, impact and quality.
2. Reorganize and repurpose existing FP resources to both support quality FYE across the campus and a reimagined Office of FYE.
3. Take steps to suspend UNIV 100 for fall 2016/spring 2017 to allow for planning and implementation of agreed upon versions of College FYE offerings.
4. Take steps to ensure smooth transitions from the current FP model to the reimagined FYE model and communicate effectively with all stakeholders.

Planting Season: Where We Stand

UNIV 100, the existing three-unit elective course, was successfully redesigned in fall 2015 to strengthen curriculum content, consistent with national literature on first year experience expectations.

UNIV 100 serves to help first year students explore academic majors, acclimate to campus culture, and develop lifelong learning & self-development skills.

The new version WILL be offered in F116

Any first year freshman will be able to take UNIV 100. However, the FYE office will act as a "home" for those students who have yet to commit to a college, and will intensify efforts to recruit undeclared students for UNIV 100. Currently, between 12-14% of our nearly 4500 Freshmen are undeclared. Through this course and our strengthened advising efforts, we would better guide students toward major declaration as appropriate.

Decentralizing FYE for Freshmen/Transfers

In spring 2016, we will continue discussions with colleges that have expressed interest in implementing their own FYE offerings to identify appropriate modalities for doing so.

In addition, conversations will continue with colleges that have expressed concerns with the decentralization of the FYE to explore if, how, and when they could join this effort.

But who will pay for all of this?

Funding for FYE

Role of the Office of First Year Experience

The Battle for GE

Our UNIV 100 course was rewritten with the Goal of GE credit for Lifelong Learning and Self-Development. This proposal is currently under review with our Univ GE

Committee

Q and A