

Educational Policy & Student Affairs
Resolution of the Formation of a First Year Council
Faculty Senate
June 6, 2011
PASSED

Whereas

The Enrollment Management Advisory Committee (EMAC) is a standing committee of the University that has responsibility for all matters relating to recruitment, retention, marketing, financial aid, and scholarship policies;

And whereas

The ad hoc Foundations of Excellence Task Force of several years ago was successful at reversing the decline in retention at the Athens campus through many initiatives, including the establishment of Learning Communities, attendance tracking, the Allen Student Help center, improving the engagement of students, and other effective first year efforts;

Be it resolved

That Faculty Senate endorses the formation of a new University Standing Committee, related in mission to EMAC and containing a number of its members, entitled the First Year Council (FYC), with the membership and charge as attached.

Be it further resolved that

While the council will serve the needs of Athens-based students, it is expected that the Regional Campuses will be informed about what the council does and, where possible, will establish their own mechanisms to serve their First Year students; and

Be it further resolved that

Because of the close links between EMAC and the FYC, that there will be cross-membership of these committees, where possible, and at a minimum the co-chairs of FYC will be members of EMAC and the chair of EMAC will be member of FYC.

The First Year Council

The First Year Council will be charged with the following responsibilities:

- Gain knowledge of all initiatives/programs/policies on campus affecting first year students (and would be the successor to the Foundations of Excellence Task Force).
- Set campus-wide priorities among competing first year initiatives.
- Coordinate and align first year programs, policies, and practices.
- Plan and advocate for first year student success initiatives.
- Increase the visibility of first year issues and programs within the university community.

- Sponsor regular First Year forums/open meetings/workshops to diffuse knowledge about, and commitment to, first year issues and programs across all campuses.
- Advocate for faculty development in first year teaching.
- Design and advocate for a faculty reward structure to encourage excellence in first year teaching and advising.
- Identify current first year student advocates among faculty on all campuses and recruit more.
- Consult widely with instructors of first year classes including but not limited to continuing faculty and teaching assistants.

Composition

The council will be co-chaired by a Group I faculty member and the Director of Retention. The rest of the voting membership will be: four Group I faculty members, one of whom is the chair of EMAC; three members representative of the Assistant Deans, Student Affairs, and continuing faculty; and one undergraduate student member. Cross-membership of this Council and EMAC is expected and encouraged. If possible, one of the faculty members should come from the regional campus for the first three years after the Council is established.

In addition there will be the following ex officio members or their representatives:

Institutional Research

Registrar

Bursar

Financial Aid

Allen Student Help Center

Residential Housing