

## **First Year Experience Committee Meeting Minutes for August 9, 2017—2:00 PM\***

The meeting was called to order at 1:58 pm.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the April 21 meeting approved and accepted.

Handouts for the current meeting were distributed and were made available via a link to Dave's google drive. These included:

- Updated directory for the committee.
- Standing committee description and program.
- ePortfolio information and requirements

### **Old Business**

1. Two kinds of workshops to be offered via the CATS course in Swainsboro were discussed.
  - Mandatory: about 6
  - Elective: extra credit items (one time/first come first serve TASK)
  - We need to consider ways to offer comparable programs in Statesboro and Augusta.
  -
2. Campus reports and prospects for fall semester.

#### **A. Swainsboro**

Dave piloted the use of online portfolios with the CATS course during summer and found the practice to be effective. These are designed to show evidence of learning and can be useful in job applications and/or applications to special programs (i.e. nursing) and graduate school.

These replace or supplement the student planning notebook (which was called a paper portfolio in previous semesters).

#### **B. Statesboro**

- The classes in Statesboro are also moving to the eportfolio.
- We are looking at other options to increase program effectiveness and parity across our campuses. Sandra will look into having a GSU official come speak to her classes; maybe someone from FYE there, and student involvement.
- We should request a student worker for Statesboro to help manage CATS course and grading.

#### **C. Augusta**

- CATS classes have met online and every two weeks in a classroom.
- For fall Rob plans to have the groups will stay the same for weekly meetings. The TBA section into which students all enroll will be divided into 30ish groups.

#### **3. Bobcat pledge**

- The pledge has been approved by this committee, the faculty senate, and the administration.
- The pledge will be used in the Convocation ceremony.

## New Business

### 1. Conference in Savannah

Dave and Sandra attended the *Institute on Developing and Sustaining First-Year Seminars* offered by the National Resource Center for First-Year Experience and Students in Transition. It was held July 28-30 in Savannah, Georgia.

Sandra reported on the event for the committee.

- Sandra says: wonderful opportunity to “sink teeth” of what FYE is. Not like regular conferences. The speakers rotated, so they got everything. She felt it was rejuvenating and learned all sorts of lessons.
  - History of FYE seminars, Stats on them. Uses/benefits “High Impact Practices”
  - Theory and Applications
  - FYE more than tool for retention
  - FYE is more than an Easy A idea, we are interested in student success and future as world participant.
  - Wishlists are long
    - More teachers wanting to participate but how to train, pay, and reward
  - Peer leaders \*\*\* GPS/Preview – email Sandra at Statesboro to discuss in more detail.
  - Backward design for CATS design: start with learning outcomes and create assessments then construct learning experiences.
  - New digital ways to enhance course.
    - Useful because this is where students are at
    - \*\*Technology use
  - Assessment

### 2. Campus Assessment Reports Survey planned for fall.

- The survey will include pre and post tests measure of program outcomes.

### 3. Portfolios and critical thinking

- Dave shared examples of portfolios that his students created in the summer CATS course.
- Faculty should be encouraged to offer writing assignments or other projects that promote critical thinking and might be used by students in their portfolios. Committee members will talk it up with other faculty to get higher participation.
- Judges will be needed to make the portfolio project a contest where students can present their work publicly.

### 4. Future Programs and Projects

#### A. Workshops

Members of the committee expressed a desire to see additional (non-mandatory) workshop type programs offered for students. We brainstormed ideas toward this end.

- Dress for success
- How to use the major
- Where do I go from here
- How to take notes/annotating.

- Plagiarism
- Staff can do these too!
- Test anxiety

We should plan on making videos of these workshops so that they can be used at other times and in other contexts.

#### B. Poster Project

- Create and post “read the syllabus” and other messages
- Every week, the poster will be different, and it will go along with what will be taught in the class.
- It would be nice to see posters all over campus (get faculty involved, put it on D2L course)
  - Goal is to change the culture.
  - Can we this get put on MyEGSC?
  - Ideas for slogans, send them to David.

#### C. Major Fair

Deborah is designing a major fair. We will require attendance at a part of the CATS course.

#### D. Peer Leaders

The committee discussed ideas for creating a peer leader program.

Peer coaches for leadership training (use older students)/learning communities

- Train them first
- Look small then go larger.
- Implement learning communities in spring?
  - Survey had some interest, but faculty are interested and want to be involved.
  - Someone brought up the extra benefits for learning support classes.
- There are certifications, students can get for working as peer leaders.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

\* These minutes were constructed from notes taken by Dr. Honeycutt. The committee greatly appreciates her contribution.