

Gen ED First Year Seminar (FYS) July 2018 Minutes

At a meeting on July 6th the FYS seminar group met to review the applications for a FYS pilot in Fall 2019 (re: Anne Galbraith's email sent on May 31, 2018). The group reviewed 23 applications and made selections, to be communicated directly to instructors and chairs on August 1st. As the group reviewed the FYS applications, two clear, broad criteria for acceptance emerged: 1) the courses must explicitly engage first-year students and 2) the course title, content and scope cannot closely replicate existing, discipline-specific Gen Ed courses. The group also reviewed a revised timeline for implementing the pilot and following the approval protocols for a new course (FYS 100); the timeline was largely revised to reflect the more significant role the new Director for Student Success, Jo Arney, will play in overseeing the First-Year Seminar moving forward.

A second meeting on July 17th served as an attempt to better understand what a first year seminar might look like "on the ground." The group reviewed proposed draft SLOs, developed a draft of four overarching skills-based SLOs (to be further fleshed out in a meeting on July 31st), and considered the relationship between the one-credit online module shared by all sections and the two-credit content-based class. The group also discussed the kinds of concerns pilot instructors would like to see addressed in upcoming CATL workshops, reviewing and collecting, in a document, the responses to this question: "List any specific items (if any) that you want the CATL workshop to focus on to help you in developing this content-based FYS course."

A set of four core SLOs were drafted by Bryan Kopp (CATL liaison) in consultation with CATL and distributed to the group for review and feedback.

A timeline and process was established for the creation of the 14 online modules in 2018-2019.