



Academic Affairs: First Year Well-Being

Director: (Kyle Landis, kwl5380@psu.edu)

Meeting Recorder: (Alex TenBroeck, jat5502@psu.edu)

Meeting Location: *Worthington-Scranton*

Council Weekend #2

Saturday November 12, 2016

Call to Order: 11:30 am

- I. **Introductions:** Kyle warmly welcomes everyone to the breakout, and looks forward to engaging in some good discussion involving the first year well-being of commonwealth students.

- II. **Old Business:** N/A

- III. **New Business:**
 - Kyle: How many other campuses require the class, optional, non-existent?
 - Bill, New Kensington: We had the first year seminars and they were required back in the early 1990's, but did not go over well. Main goal was to give students a platform to be able to engage with their professors. It did not go over well with the students so they switched it over to a class called 'Freshman Focus' and it was overall better received with the students. Launched in 2008.
 - Kyle: Where I want to go with this process is to push forth legislation to say to the university that this is a very crucial class that should be taken by every student, but it doesn't need to be taken by every student. It's only a one credit course and you can make it a requirement to take it within either the first two or three years. No need to put a ton of time into it just basic things such as how to read a degree audit, and what does a recommended academic plan look like? How to find your recommended academic plan? How to analyze all these things and to make sure that you are going through your degree audit process in all the right ways, also each campus can be different

you can talk about what services you provide on campus such as mental health services, etc.

- Harrisburg: It is required for all students to take. 50 mins-1 hour a week.
- Mark, Brandywine: Only required for athletes, offer it for engineering and business majors but it is not a requirement.
- Alex, UP: Making a point, I started at Brandywine as a provisional student and the first year seminar was a requirement for me.
- Adam, Beaver: Optional, does not know who they recommend it to. When he was a freshman they did not recommend it to him, but some freshman this year are in it.
- Kyle: Do you know what goes into the classes at your campus?
- Adam, Beaver: Don't know much about it but from hearing the conversations this morning it all sounds very similar. Someone in Student Affairs runs it and we also have an adviser for undergraduate students.
- Kyle: Kind of a strange thing that it is different across the board at each campus. It almost seems like a mundane thing like were trying to push forth legislation for this to happen because it should be a requirement.
- Kyle: Recommend that you don't self-advise but to talk to your advisor for guidance. Shouldn't have to go to your advisor during your seventh semester and ask what classes do I need to take? During your freshman year you are taking mostly gen-eds and maybe one major class so you should have the time to fit in the first year seminar into your schedule.
- Stewart, York: I'm a sophomore but this is the first time that I have heard about the first year seminar. Students tell me that they have the class but it is not a requirement to take it.
- Kyle: Is there anything different that you guys do at your campus or is it the basic stuff?
- Stewart, York: Same stuff.
- Bill, New Kensington: Our Freshman Focus courses put more emphasis on teaching students how to do research and read and write at a college level. It doesn't go over reading degree audits and scheduling. Orientation tries to cover that.
- Kyle: I was an Orientation leader at Abington, and our Elion session was maybe 20 mins and you say this is what each tab does. These kids don't want to be there and it is a very long day.

- Adam, Beaver: Do you think that students will be able to choose whether or not they would be able to take it?
- Kyle: I think that would come down to getting syllabi from the campuses that do require it and seeing how their grading is.
- Kyle: When you guys go back to your campuses, try to set up a meeting with your DAA. If your campus offers the first-year seminars, take notes down. Ask to see if they can get a syllabus or something from it. Send it to Malek or I.
- Bellz, Abington: Is that the same as the FYE?
- Kyle: No. The difference between the first year seminar is an actual one credit class. In Abington's sense, the first-year engagement is that they don't require the first year seminar but each freshman student needs to take one class that is a first year engagement class. The classes run a little bit differently. The professors try to help students with tasks such as notetaking. Great things to put into the first year seminar. Tips on how to get more out of the class. Time management is another good example. You can have people from different departments come and speak in a few classes. Our goal is to make sure that every student participates in this.

IV. Open Forum:

- Name, Campus,

Adjournment: 11:54 AM

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 - Name, Campus

- **Old Business:**
 - Name, Campus

- **New Business:**
 - Name, Campus

- **Open Forum:**
 - Name, Campus

Adjournment: