



Committee Breakout Name

Director: Logan Starr – lgs5102@psu.edu

Meeting Recorder: (Insert name and email, like shown above)

Assistant Recorder: (Insert name and email, like shown above)

Meeting Location: *HUB*

Council Weekend #1

Friday, September 23rd, 2016

Call to Order: 9:00 pm

I. Introductions:

- Name, Campus,

II. Old Business:

- Name, Campus,

III. New Business:

- Name, Campus,

IV. Open Forum:

- Name, Campus,

Adjournment: 10:00 pm

I. Introductions:

- Kyle Landis, University Park

II. Old Business:

- None

III. New Business:

- Kyle Landis, University Park: Who is required to take 1st year seminars? What have your experiences been and what are some takeaways that you have?

IV. Open Forum:

- Austin, Dubois: At Dubois, First Year Seminars are designed to be representative of each department and help students transition to college. First Year Seminars help students identify useful resources on campus as well as develop study skills.
- Nicole, Harrisburg: At Mont Alto, our First Year Seminars were very similar. We also focused on study skills, time management and introducing the students to learning support resources on campus.
- Andrew, York: At York, our First Year Seminars are not mandatory. That translates to low participation.
- Diana, Berks: Berks campus has a lot of First Year Seminars that are connected to students' majors as well as DUS. They focus on introducing students to resources on campus. The First Year Seminars have a required book that include basic skills needed for college and adult life.
- Nicole, Harrisburg: Mont Alto has a learning center that they introduce students to.
- Nick, Abington: Abington doesn't have a required First Year Seminar. The only opportunity students have to gain information about the resources on campus are New Student Orientation. There is not much advising, especially for first year students. There are one-time advising sessions for students. There should be more ways for new students to be connected with school resources.
- Sam, Behrend: Everyone at Behrend is required to take a First Year Seminar class. The class is very involved and caters to the student's major.
- Andrew, York: York has a two-part orientation. First Year Seminars should also include more focus on using degree audits and LionPath.
- Austin, DuBois: First Year Seminars should also be required within a certain time period. It may be appropriate to require students to take a First Year Seminar within their first year.

- Vinny, Altoona: For 2+2 campuses, it is especially important that we have more involved advising for students. Who should I contact to improve this situation?
- Kyle, University Park: The director of Academic Affairs should be able to help. Also, people from the resources on campus would also be useful to talk to. We should also identify what factors are preventing campuses from providing this resource to students. Is it because they do not have enough resources or is it because they do not view it as a necessity?
- Vinny, Altoona: How do campuses enforce First Year Seminars if they are not required?
- Kyle, University Park: Requiring students to complete something similar to a First Year Seminar is useful. At the very least, that student will know of the resources available to them on campus.
- Diana, Berks: To improve student participation, the First Year Seminars include written assignments that require students to reflect their experience with a particular resource. Berks also has a peer mentoring program that is paid and opens up another opportunity for students.
- Nicole, Harrisburg: First Year seminars should also include more exploration of LionPath.
- Dixie, Hazelton: Our First Year seminars are required and held at a time when there are no other classes going on. This means that students are always available to visit resources on campus. However, teachers of First Year Seminars are also the head of their department. This may be the cause of First Year Seminars in a department not being consistent among First Year Seminars in other departments. There should be a way to ensure consistency among all First Year Seminars. What is the ratio of students to mentors?
- Diana, Berks: Generally, there is one mentor for each First Year Seminar class. Student mentors are also available in other resources outside of First Year Seminar classes.
- Taylor, Fayette: First Year Seminars should be mandatory and incorporate advising.

Adjournment: 04:00 pm