

First Year Success Initiative Task Force #3
DRAFT Meeting Summary
April 23, 2015
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM
College of San Mateo Learning Center, Rm. 220M

First Year Success Curriculum/Courses

The group discussed the many options for establishing a designated FYE/FYS course. In order to be able to establish something for Fall 2015 as a pilot the suggestion was to use sections of COUN 111 (formerly CRER 105). These are .5 unit courses that run for 8 weeks and would could be incorporated into what is already being done. There was some discussion about the number of sections that could be filled for Fall given the late date and that PEP advising had already begun. The recommendation was to have 4-6 sections split between the first and second 8 weeks of the semester. Students involved in PEP could be messaged about registering. Additionally, if the sections could be set up before May 22 the high school counselors could still communicate with students about the importance of registering. A flyer with course information would need to be quickly developed and distributed if Fall '15 was the goal. The group discussed whether sections could be arranged by student interests, capping enrollment at 25-30 per section and how to incentivize participation. The task force recognized the challenges of having large numbers of sections and assigning counselors to teaching them. Counselors a limited resource but it was hoped that spreading sections among all the counselors may make that a possibility.

It is possible that a separate course could be developed specifically for this purpose over the AY 15-16 but the details of such a course (i.e. number of units, peer mentor support) would need to be worked out. Whether this course became a requirement, optional, or "highly recommended" the communication to students needs to be clear about the benefits for students participating and the links between taking such a course and student success. Scheduling of classes to allow for larger meetings or presentations for all FYE/FYS students was something the group felt was important.

David Laderman lead a discussion of the Mindset 4.0 (M4.0) initiative and shared the work done on that which also included establishing a course. The language behind M4.0 was of particular interest. We thought that if the language behind the initiative was shared with high school partners and used at all points of student engagement, including Outreach and Transition, the consistent message would be of great benefit to students.

There are some clear challenges to incorporating FYE/FYS into a course: not being able to limit enrollment to ONLY first time students coming out of high school; not being a mandatory course; having adequate numbers of sections; scheduling; and more. However, whatever the eventual course and curriculum offering some sort of FYE/FYS course is going to be important to the success of the initiative.

Next Meeting – May 7, 2015 10:00 AM

Celebrating – All members of all task force groups are invited to a May 15th celebration at 3:30 in Building 10 at CSM