

Student Success Task Force

**First-Year Experience and University 1**

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**Charge:**

Fresno State has provided an FYE and the University 1 course for a selected number of students for a number of years. This subcommittee will explore the feasibility, cost, and potential implementation of a First Year Experience for all incoming freshmen, and consider the role of the University One in the future.

## **Executive Summary**

After multiple meetings of the full Committee to discuss a First Year Experience (FYE) for incoming freshmen, three subcommittees were formed to research and propose FYE Learning Outcomes, details of a Summer Experience, and a sustainable FYE model for work through the academic year. The summary outlined herein will discuss these three areas in more detail.

### **First-Year Learning Outcomes**

The FY Learning Outcomes are designed in such a way as to touch on 6 critical areas:

1. Self-efficacy & sense of belonging
2. Navigating the university and resources
3. Connection to the major/academic planning
4. Information literacy
5. Teamwork
6. Life skills

It is proposed that freshmen will demonstrate achievement of the following outcomes by the end of their first year through a comprehensive first-year experience:

#### **DISCOVERY**

- by identifying university resources, mentors, co/extra-curricular programs, and activities sponsored by the University towards achieving academic and personal goals
- by developing a sense of belonging and enhanced self-efficacy

#### **DIVERSITY**

- by valuing and building a sense of community with people of diverse perspectives and backgrounds

#### **DISTINCTION**

- by pursuing opportunities to explore majors, minors, and mentored research through working with faculty and academic advisors
- by developing an academic roadmap that outlines the courses, programs, activities, and career pathways in which they will engage
- by recognizing information needs and identifying, evaluating, and using the information resources effectively

### **Summer Experience**

- The major goal of the summer experience is to orient freshmen to the campus and their major and to create a sense of belonging.
- The current Dog Days program would be modified to meet FYE goals, and would separate the registration and advising aspects of our current Dog Days from the orientation, belonging and connection to the major goals of the summer experience.
- A new experience would further enhance major and academic connections as well as social connections.

The First-Year Experience Program will begin with a common summer experience. All new freshmen attend a 1-day advising/registration session in June or July. Students will receive high impact advising in preparation for their first year. Emphasis will be on ensuring that students receive in-depth information on General Education, major requirements, and leave with full schedule (12-16 units).

The week prior to the start of the fall semester freshmen attend a 2-day orientation complete with presentations held at the Savemart Center on mandated materials/resources, and more.

A events and activities will be planned to strengthen a student's sense of belonging, provide opportunities to connect with peers and faculty, and learn about opportunities to get involved.

Mid-day on day 2 students will transition to their respective colleges for "College Time". A common framework will be developed for colleges to follow – this will provide programmatic consistency however, Colleges will have flexibility to create their own program.

### **FYE Academic Year Model**

The First-Year Experience program will combine coursework with co-curricular activities/workshops, etc., with the co-curricular component structured online. Because many degree programs are already at their 120 unit cap with no electives, any coursework which is required of all majors must fit within the general education program requirements. The requirement of any single course for all students (eg. UNIV 1) would cause significant disruption in the current GE program by eliminating all existing courses that area of the GE program. As such, the group considered the option of adding FYE outcomes on top of existing courses within the GE program.

Two Options have been recommended for the FYE Program (see also Appendix A):

#### **FYE Academic Year - Option 1**

- Add FYE Outcomes to Area A1 (oral communication) - taken fall or spring semester
  - Supplemented by a zero unit lab with online modules and co-curricular experiences
  - Documentation and reflection in e-portfolio
- \* 50% of freshmen will miss the opportunity first semester to build a sense of community

#### **FYE course - option 2**

- Add FYE outcomes to multiple GE courses with an "FYE" designation (to include UNIV 1)
  - Required FYE designated course in first year
  - Supplemented by a zero unit lab with online modules and co-curricular experiences
  - Documentation and reflection in e-portfolio
- \*A process must be established to review and certify FYE designated courses; and need enough course faculty to "volunteer" for FYE designation to meet demand

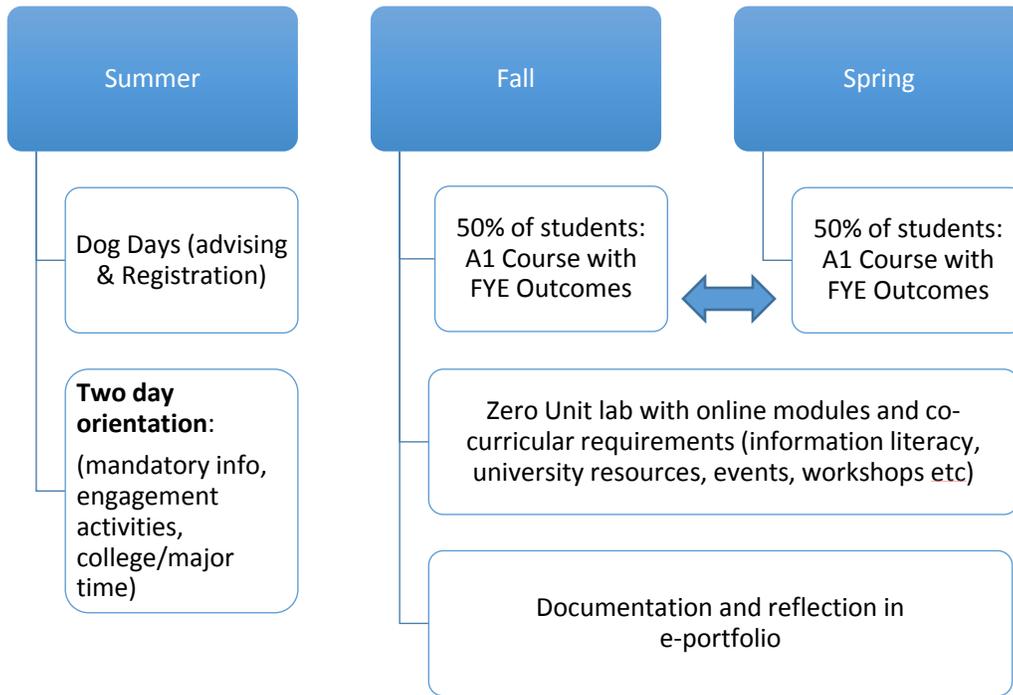
#### **Other Considerations:**

- The summer experience would require students to come to campus twice before classes begin: summer advising/registration and once for the two day orientation in the fall
- The College program portion of the Summer Experience would require faculty time out of the contract period, and therefore some summer salary
- Option two could be expanded to include coursework in both fall and spring semesters. This would be more complicated, but would allow for both semesters of FYE programming
- Student online and co-curricular participation and e-portfolio must be developed and monitored
- We have not yet consulted with faculty and some may feel they do not have "room" in their courses to add additional content/outcomes

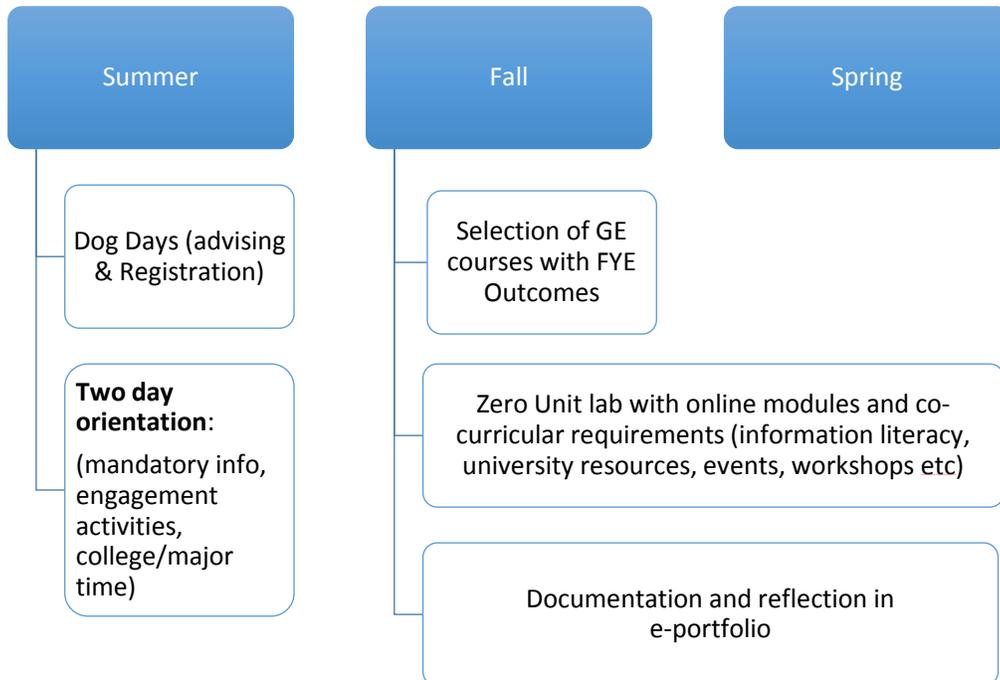
#### **Budget Considerations (see Appendix B)**

## Appendix A

### FYE Program – Option 1



### FYE Program – Option 2



## Appendix B

### Budget Considerations

Although the group did not have enough time to fully explore budget implications, the summer experience is estimated to cost approximately \$100,000 annually in addition to the current costs of dog days

The costs of the academic year portion of the FYE are more difficult to estimate, but include development and monitoring of online content and e-portfolios. An examination of current Area A1 offerings indicate we are approximately 20 sections short of the capacity needed to offer an A1 course to all incoming freshmen as required in option 1, which is estimated at \$100,000 needed to increase capacity.

#### Summer

- Peer mentors (150 groups of 25 \* 3 days = \$43,200)
- Faculty (55\*2 days = \$35,750)
- Save Mart Center Rental
- Speaker stipends

#### Academic Year

- ≈20 section of A1 = \$100,000 (option1)
- Oversight/creation of online resources and eportfolio