Annual Report for FYE Committee (2021 - 2022)

Members: Melanthra Ardrey, Lynne Ford, Jay Forsythe, Page Keller, Amy Kolak, Jen Kopfman, Ian O’Byrne, Sarah Owens, Giocondra Quesada, Dustin Roberts, Joshua Shanes, Laura Turner

Summary of Activities: The committee met regularly throughout the year to discuss and approve new FYE proposals for the 2022-2023 academic year. In total, 6 new Learning Community courses and 26 Seminar courses were proposed and approved over the course of the 2021-2022 year. Of the 26 Seminar proposals submitted, 10 were submitted in response to the call for courses that would meet the requirements of the REI. A complete summary of the committee meetings, along with the proposals submitted, is provided below.

RECORD of COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Friday, September 10, 2021, 11:00 - 12:00 via Zoom

All Members Present: Melanthra Ardrey, Lynne Ford, Jay Forsythe, Page Keller, Amy Kolak, Jen Kopfman, Ian O’Byrne, Sarah Owens, Giocondra Quesada, Dustin Roberts, Joshua Shanes, Laura Turner

Introductions

Announcements

Sarah stated that proposals are due October 27, 2021; however, we will receive some proposals after the deadline.

Discussion about Critical Conversations

Lynne proposed the idea of selecting a Critical Conversations Theme to attract faculty to the FYE program. A number of possible themes were discussed including ideas related broadly to Well-Being (including Sense of Belonging, Financial Literacy) and Mental Health. Some members suggested that “mental health” can be incorporated fairly easily into most FYE courses by regularly connecting with FYE students about how they are doing. The discussion then turned more generally to how we might recruit “new” faculty to the program. It was suggested that we could better promote the idea that teaching in the FYE program can attract students to major/minors as well as individual faculty members’ courses within their departments. Others suggested that we need to capitalize on the interdisciplinary nature of Learning Communities, especially around overlaps between science and humanities. It was also suggested that maybe we
need to do more matchmaking and it was indicated that this does happen behind the scenes. In fact, during New Faculty Orientation, random faculty from different disciplines are paired and asked to come up with a Learning Community. Others suggested facilitating collaboration across faculty from different disciplines around works of fiction, common life experiences, or shared interests outside of the classroom. Moreover, it was suggested that we could approach faculty who are teaching 200- or 300-level classes to adapt courses for an FYE Seminar. Sarah suggested we spend some time thinking about possible themes as we don’t need to put this call out quite yet. The deadline is usually after the initial due date. In sum, this was an interesting discussion about how we might recruit faculty to the program and less about developing a Critical Conversations theme though clearly these topics are interrelated.

Proposal Reviewed

S. Flynn (HEHP) - Finding Your Wellness Balance to Live a Happy and Rewarding Life
All in favor of this proposal. Some suggestions were made to shorten the title to “Finding Your Wellness Balance” or How to Live a Happy and Rewarding Life” or even changing it to simply “Live Happy” or “Be Happy”. One committee member suggested lightening up the language in the description, by making it less academic; however, Dustin pointed out that we do want some consistency across course descriptions. Others were also supportive of the current description. Some clarification was requested with respect to proposed assignments (i.e., how are writing assignments related, will they be stretched over the course of the semester). Sarah will work with the faculty member to address the committee's suggestions.

Friday, October 22, 2021, 11:00 - 12:00 via Zoom

Members Present:  Melanthra Ardrey, Lynne Ford, Amy Kolak, Jen Kopfman, Ian O’Byrne, Sarah Owens, Joshua Shanes

Members Absent:  Jay Forsythe, Page Keller, Giocondra Quesada, Dustin Roberts, Laura Turner

Announcements

Another call for new proposals, extending the 2022-2023 proposal deadline to November 10, will be sent out early next week.

A Mental Health FLASC, under the direction of Psychology faculty member, Lisa Ross, will be offered in the Spring 2022. The call for applications will be sent out next week.
Sarah will be the FYE director through the end of 2022. The call for a new FYE director will go out in November with an application deadline of early 2022. It is necessary to fill this role well in advance of Sarah’s departure from this position to allow for training. Sarah encouraged committee members to consider applying.

The next FYE Meeting will be held on Friday, November 5, from 11 - 12.

**Discussion about FYE’s participation in the Race, Equity and Inclusion (REI) Requirement**

FYE is a stand alone degree requirement and while certainly some courses, including those in a learning community or a seminar, offered by faculty in the past may have also met the REI requirement, it was suggested that we should proceed with some caution to ensure that including the REI objectives complements, and does not detract, from the FYE degree requirement. Courses included in learning communities that meet the REI requirement (address 2 of the 3 Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) within at least ⅓ of the course content) will be approved via the procedures that will be set up for individual departments so we will only need to put a new process in place for FYE seminars that also meet the REI. *All of the committee members are overwhelmingly in support of having FYE seminars be able to contribute to the REI requirement; however, some logistical concerns were discussed.*

First, this will require the creation of new course numbers so that courses can be identified by and appropriately applied by the Registrar’s office. Lynne suggested FYSU for FYE seminars that meet the United States REI and FYSG for seminars that meet the Global REI. A second and related concern was about the process of reviewing these proposals. A committee member wondered if this would require a double-vetting process such that the FYE committee would evaluate the seminar proposal for the FYE and another committee would evaluate the seminar proposal for compliance to REI. It is not entirely clear what the general approval process for courses that meet the REI requirement will entail; however, neither Lynne nor Sarah anticipate that proposals for FYE seminars that meet the REI would require approval of two committees. In other words, they anticipate that it will be left to the discretion of the FYE committee to approve these courses given its inclusion of faculty members. Finally, it was suggested that this would probably necessitate the development of a new FYE seminar proposal form that would enable the proposing faculty member to select whether this seminar would meet the United States or Global REI and then also to identify which 2 of the 3 SLOs would be addressed within a ⅓ of the course content.

Lastly, there have been some difficulties recruiting faculty to the FYE program this semester, possibly due to concerns about the new budgeting model. It was clarified that the FYE courses will always track back to the department and chairs will get credit for faculty teaching in this
program. One committee member suggested that chairs may be especially supportive of faculty contributing to FYE if they are also able to get credit for participating in the REI. Somewhat relatedly, departments who don’t typically see students until later in their academic career may be reluctant to participate in the FYE unless they can use it as a major recruiting tool and there was some discussion about how to make the home department of the faculty member more apparent to students so that students considering these majors might gravitate toward a FYE course being taught by a faculty member from a major they are considering. It was clarified that the faculty member’s departmental affiliation is included in the FYE materials that students see; however, it seems like the FYE topics themselves are the draw more than anything else. Even courses that were designed to target students within specific majors often attract students from across the college. Ultimately, it was suggested that the relationships that students form with individual professors may be more indicative of major selection.

In sum, the FYE is in favor of endorsing REI and committed to working through the accompanying logistics. A call for new FYE seminars that meet the REI Requirement will be sent out soon with a deadline before the end of the semester.

**Proposals Reviewed**

**S. Short (PSYC) - Solvable: Scientific Solutions For The Past, Present, and Future**
All in favor of this proposal; committee members appreciated the interdisciplinarity of the proposal.

**C. Gibbs (Jewish Studies) - The Holocaust on Screen: Movies, Documentaries, and Documents of the Shoah**
All in favor of this proposal - the only suggestion made was to shorten the title to The Holocaust on Screen.

**Friday, November 5, 2021, 11:00 - 12:00 via Zoom**

**Members Present:** Melanthra Ardrey, Lynne Ford, Page Keller, Amy Kolak, Jen Kopfman, Ian O’Byrne, Sarah Owens, Giocondra Quesada, Dustin Roberts, Joshua Shanes, Laura Turner

**Members Absent:** Jay Forsythe

**Call for Next FYE Director**

All were supportive of the posting for this position, though some expressed concern about how the teaching load was communicated and it was suggested that a new section entitled teaching
should be added in the section where the program coordination and administrative responsibilities were communicated.

**Stipends for Staff Members that teach in the FYE Program**

The process of providing stipends for full-time staff members who teach in the FYE program as adjunct faculty is extremely complicated and it was suggested that providing money to these instructors through a professional development fund may be an appropriate alternative. These professional development funds are state money and thus, they might come with some limits on how and when they need to be spent. While the committee members appreciate the challenges related to the paperwork of distributing stipends directly to these instructors, many still felt like this should be provided as one option with the other being the professional development funds.

**Proposals Reviewed**

- **M. Cressler (Religious Studies) - How to Survive an Apocalypse**
  All in favor of this proposal; faculty think it will be appealing to students.

- **L. Ross (Psyc) - Hope and the Human Condition**
  All in favor of this proposal; well-written with an interesting mix of readings.

- **A. Lonnon (ENG) and B. Lavelle (HEHP) - Follow Your Gut: Learning how the Gut-Brain Axis and our Understanding of Happiness Affects our Emotional Well-being**
  All in favor of this proposal; nice connection across the two courses. The only suggestion was to encourage instructors to shorten the title (i.e., Follow Your Gut or Trust Your Gut) and/or limit the subtitle to 4 or 5 words. It was suggested that the instructors could fold the current subtitle into their course description.

**Friday, November 19, 2021, 11:00 - 12:00 via Zoom**

**Members Present:** Melanthra Ardrey, Lynne Ford, Jay Forsythe, Amy Kolak, Ian O’Byrne, Sarah Owens, Giocondra Quesada, Joshua Shanes, Laura Turner

**Members Absent:** Page Keller, Jen Kopfman, Dustin Roberts

**Proposals Reviewed**

- **V. Appler (Theatre and Dance) - The Artist’s Way: Cultivating Creativity in College**
All in favor of this proposal; Sarah will ask for more detail and clarification needed with respect to the learning outcomes, including academic-type writing.

S. Oprisan (Physics and Astronomy) - iHuman
All in favor of this proposal; appealing to students.

B. Irving (Comm) - You Are What You Eat: Food and Culture in the Lowcountry
All in favor of this proposal; well-written and organized.

E. Jones (History) - Information Revolutions and the Radical History of Reading and Knowledge
All in favor of this proposal; well-organized.

E. Baker (English) - From Sherlock Holmes to Selena Gomez: Detective Fiction and Its Descendants
All in favor of this proposal; will catch students’ attention. Sarah will ask for more detail about how objective 2 will be met.

T. LeVasseur (Religious Studies) and J. Wright (Psyc) - Sustainable Communities: An Ethic of Resistance and Regeneration for the 21st Century
All in favor of this proposal; nice connection across the two courses and good assignments.

J. Finch (Library) - Feed Your Brain (with Visual Stories)
All in favor of this proposal; it was suggested that the title could be modified to include the phrase “Data Visualization and Storytelling.”

Preliminary Review of REI Proposals

J. Evans (Finance) - Fintech, Racial Equity, and an Inclusive Financial System
All in favor of this proposal; Sarah will ask for greater elaboration on learning objective 2 as well as clarification for assignments, especially with respect to how the main project will be scaffolded. She will also ask for a shortened course description.

M. Trochmann (Political Science) - Social Equity and Racial Justice in American Politics and Policy
All in favor of this proposal; conditionally approved.

J. Wright (Psyc) - Living in Community: The Psychology of Oppression, Resistance, & Regeneration
All in favor of this proposal; conditionally approved.
Friday, December 3, 2021, 11:00 - 12:00 via Zoom

Members Present: Melantha Ardrey, Lynne Ford, Jay Forsythe, Page Keller, Amy Kolak, Jen Kopfman, Ian O’Byrne, Sarah Owens, Dustin Roberts, Laura Turner

Members Absent: Gioconda Quesada, Joshua Shanes

Proposals Reviewed

T. Copses (ENGL) and E. Leigh (DANC) - Get Me Bodied: Integrating Mind and Body in the Learning Process
Approved.

R. Geslain (BIOL) and C. Moran (Hispanic Studies) - Human Diseases in the Spanish-Speaking World
Some concern about overlap across these two areas; public health/medical field; some challenges with covering Biology 111 content.

J. Chadwick (Geology & Environmental Geoscience) - Exploring the Planets
Approved.

M. McCollum (English) - Flash Flood: Writing Fiction about Current Events
Approved.

J. Arroyo (SOCY) & B. Castillo (SPAN) - Talking Spanish: Thinking Sociology
Approved.

Review of REI Proposals

J. Evans (Finance) - Fintech, Racial Equity, and an Inclusive Financial System
Committee members approved changes instructor made in response to Sarah’s feedback

M. Trochmann (Political Science) - Social Equity and Racial Justice in American Politics and Policy
Formally approved.

J. Wright (Psyc) - Living in Community: The Psychology of Oppression, Resistance, & Regeneration
Formally approved.

**M. Duvall (English) - What American Literature Can Teach Us About Race, Equity, and Inclusion**  
Approved; well-organized and thorough.

**W. McCorkle (TEDU) - Broken Immigration Policies: Implications for Advocates and Educators**  
Approved.

**I. O’Byrne (TEDU) - Ctrl-Alt-Del: Games, Society, Intersectionality, & Toxic Technocultures**  
Approved.

**M. Cressler (Religious Studies) - How to Survive an Apocalypse**  
Approved.

**D. Dulceany (Hispanic Studies/LACS) - Divas, Drag Queens, and Deities Across the Americas**  
Approved.

**N. Daniel (Theatre and Dance) - Broadway Black: The Power of African American Musical Theatre**  
Sarah will suggest that the instructor incorporate bibliographical citations into the second learning objective.

**W. Sheppard (Math) - Misinformation, Media, and Data**  
Sarah will suggest that the instructor add Racial Bias to the title and make REI more clear in the description.

**Friday, January 21, 2022, 11:00 - 12:00 via Zoom**

**Members Present:** Melanthera Ardrey, Jay Forsythe, Page Keller, Amy Kolak, Ian O’Byrne, Sarah Owens, Gioconda Quesada, Dustin Roberts, Joshua Shanes

**Members Absent:** Lynne Ford, Jen Kopfman, Laura Turner

**Announcements:** New numbers for REI seminar courses (i.e., FYSG and FYSU).
Proposal Reviewed

J. Clement (Hospitality & Tourism Management) - The Professional Learner: Developing Your Personal Brand
Approved; Sarah will make some suggestions to the instructor to modify the title and shorten the course description.

Friday, March 4, 2022, 11:00 - 12:00 via Zoom

Members Present: Melanthra Ardrey, Lynne Ford, Page Keller, Amy Kolak, Jen Kopfman, Ian O’Byrne, Sarah Owens, Gioconda Quesada, Dustin Roberts, Joshua Shanes, Laura Turner

Members Absent: Jay Forsythe

Announcements:

The Faculty Senate approved new course numbers for REI, even though REI as a degree requirement is still undergoing approval.

Proposals Reviewed

S. Owens (Hispanic Studies) - Healing Journeys
Approved

R. Stalvey (Computer Science) & N. Lewis (COMM) - Preparing Computer Professionals
Approved

A. Smith (Women & Gender Studies) - Travel for Transformation
Approved

Committee Business in April was Conducted via Email

April 8, 2022

L. Covert (HIST) & L. Ford (POLI) - From Christopher Columbus to Contemporary Charleston: History, Politics, & Memory
Approved
April 19, 2022

Amy Kolak, the current chair of the FYE Committee, nominated herself to continue chairing the committee in 2022-2023 via a welcome email to the 2022-2023 roster of committee members. Her nomination was supported.