FACULTY AGENDA ITEM   NO: 12-08

Date: October 1, 2012

Submitted by: Dr. Alan Bearman, Associate Professor of History & Dean of University Libraries, ext. 1855

SUBJECT: Requiring WU101, IS100 or HN101 as a Graduation Requirement

Rationale:

The rationale for requiring WU101: The Washburn Experience, IS100: The College Experience or HN101: Honors Washburn Experience for targeted student populations is to support Washburn's plans to promote student success and retention. National research and best practices indicate that first-year success/transition courses, as part of a holistic first-year experience program, positively impact student success and retention. Initial evidence from the Washburn University FYE pilot programs indicates consistency with the national findings[1] (to learn more please visit http://www.washburn.edu/fye).

The request is to modify catalog language regarding Graduation Requirements as follows:

Complete WU101: The Washburn Experience, IS100: The College Experience or HN101: Honors Washburn Experience (conditional upon admittance into the Honors Program) with a minimum grade of C. Students transferring to Washburn University with 24 or more credit hours completed at an accredited post-secondary institution with a GPA of 2.0 or higher are exempt from the requirement to take WU101, IS100 or HN101.

Notes:

1. Students entering Washburn University direct from high school enroll in WU101 or HN101 (conditional upon admittance into the Honors Program).
2. Students not direct from high school entering Washburn University with less than 24 hours completed at an accredited post-secondary institution who have not completed a university success course with a minimum grade of C enroll in WU101, IS100 or HN101 (conditional upon admittance into the Honors Program) as determined by their Academic Advisor.
3. Students transferring to Washburn University with 24 or more credit hours completed at an accredited post-secondary institution with a GPA of 2.0 or higher are exempt from the requirement to take WU101, IS100 or HN101. They are

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[1] Preliminary results from Institutional Research indicates that 71.5% of the first-time freshman enrolled in IS110 (WU101) in the Fall 2011 semester were retained to Fall 2012, compared to a retention rate of 64.3% for all first-time retention.

By admission status: Priority students in IS110 (WU101) retained at 77.6% versus 73.9%; while, Conditional students in IS110 (WU101) retained at 59% versus 40.3%.

strongly encouraged to complete a series of independent online modules introducing them to the Washburn University Community of Learning. Students not falling in designated categories will be reviewed by Academic Advisors for applicable placement recommendations.
4. Students originally determined as being required to complete WU101, IS100 or HN101 who advance beyond 24 hours of credit without fulfilling the requirement with a minimum grade of C, are required to compete a 3-credit hour Directed Readings project (IS110) administered by the FYE Lecturer/Coordinator.

Financial Implications:

The primary reason for offering WU101 is to further the success of Washburn University students. Like any program this program needs to be financially viable. The following information, therefore, seeks to demonstrate the viability of this proposal.

Potential New Revenue:

As part of a holistic First-Year Experience program the potential for additional revenue from single cohorts is significant. The Fall 2008 first-time freshman cohort at Washburn University included 830 students.[2] From this cohort Washburn retained 521 students, or 62.8%, into the Fall 2009 semester. Achieving the KBOR goal of a 10% increase in both retention and graduation rates will take both time and a university wide commitment to student success. What follows are three scenarios, culminating with the 10% increase, of the financial impact of a gradual increase in retention rates. Each of these scenarios assumes students are taking 12 credit hours at the Fall 2012 basic tuition rate of $225.00 and are calculated using a Retention Revenue estimator from Noel-Levitz. Further, each model assumes no increase in the base tuition rate, students graduating in 4 years and demonstrates the total net gain in tuition from a single cohort.

Model 1:
3% (25 students) increase in retention = $405,000.00 additional income from the Fall 2008 cohort.

Model 2:
6% (50 students) increase in retention = $810,000.00 additional income from the Fall 2008 cohort.

Model 3:
10% (83 students) increase in retention = $1,344,600.00 additional income from the Fall 2008 cohort.

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[2] "Appendix A: Retention Rates for Undergraduate Students" Washburn University Retention Analysis: Fall 2008 to Fall 2009 (Washburn University: Office of Institutional Research, October 30, 2009), 4.

Costs:

Two models are used to estimate potential costs. The first determines cost of two additional faculty lines to assist in the teaching of WU101. The second determines adjunct replacement costs to help free faculty to teach WU101. While the third determines costs involved with hiring additional Academic Advisors to serve a growing student population.

8 sections per person x 2 = 16 sections: $40,000.00 plus benefits = $50,000.00 x 2 people = $100,000.00

N (additional students) / 21 (average WU class size) x 8 (assuming a 12 hour class schedule) x $2,500.00 (salaries)

N (additional students) / 400 (number of students served by each Academic Advisor) x $40,000.00 (cost per additional Academic Advisor)

Adding the Adjunct Costs to the Academic Advising Costs together then produced the estimated total costs per model listed below:

Model 1: $126,309.53

Model 2: $152,619.05

Model 3: $187,347.62

Proposed Effective Date: Fall 2013

Request for Action: Approval by FYE Oversight/University Retention/Interdisciplinary Studies/AAC/FS/Gen Fac/BOR
Approved by:
FYE Oversight on date: April 24, 2012
University Retention on date: May 1, 2012
Interdisciplinary Studies on date: September 5, 2012
AAC on date: October 1, 2012
Faculty Senate on date:

Attachments: No