Shifting Perspectives: The Case of an FYE Moving From Student Life to Academics

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ABSTRACT

- Can there be a successful shift from a student life perspective to an academic focus?
- **THE PAST**: A History of Dominican’s FYE
- **THE PROPOSAL**: Recommended modifications
- **THE PILOT**: Assessment
- **THE PRESENT**: Implications for Dominican’s FYE
- **THE FUTURE**: Tomorrow’s FYE at Dominican
THE PAST
A Historical Perspective

- Administration
  - Dean of Students
- Freshman Directorate
  - Campus Personnel
- Freshman Seminar
  - Campus Personnel
- Orientation
- Freshman Activities
  - Workshops and service opportunities
THE PROPOSAL

Recommendations

- Freshman Year Program Advisory Council (FYPAC)
  - FYPAC proposed, administered, and assessed FYP initiatives.

- Administration
- Freshman Directorate
- Freshman Seminar
- Orientation
- Freshman Activities
  - Freshman Interest Groups
  - Convocation

More than an education....
A relationship
THE PILOT
Administration

VP Academic Affairs
Division Director
Arts and Sciences
Division Director
Social Sciences
Division Director
Teacher Education
Director of FYP
Director of Bridge Program
Faculty Member
Chair of FYPAC
VP Enrollment
VP Student Development
Director of FYPAC

FYPAC

THE PILOT
THE PILOT
Administration (2010)

FYPAC

Academic Dean

Director of FYP

Directorate

Orientation

Seminar

Activities
THE PILOT
Administration (2011)

Academic Dean

FYPAC

Director of FYP

FYPAC Chair

Directorate (Seminar)

Directorate (Advising)

Orientation

Activities
THE PILOT
Directorate

- Composition
  - 2010: 13 faculty, 4 administrators
  - 2011: 12 faculty, 5 administrators

- Role
  - Role as Instructor*
  - Role as Advisor
  - Role as Connector*
THE PILOT Directorate

Role of Instructor

Improved Academic Skills

Increased Out-of-Class Engagement

$p < .05$
THE PILOT Directorate

Role of Advisor

- Your Institution: 5.37
- Select 6: 5.29
- Carnegie Class: 5.27
- All Institutions: 5.44

$p < .05$
Role of Connector (peers)

Role of Connector (faculty)

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# THE PILOT

Seminar Contact Hours & Credit

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**Pilot**

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THE PILOT
Seminar Cohort

2010
- English & Seminar
- Major
- Speech

2011
- Major
- English
- Seminar
- Discipline specific
- Instructor
THE PILOT
Seminar Objectives & Outcomes

CONNECTIONS

Connection to Liberal Arts
- Academic (Debates & Reflections)
- Social (Passport)

Connection to the College
- Academic (Reflections)
- Social (Passport)

Connection to Students
- Academic (Common Read)
- Social (Passport)
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Seminar Content

Fall 2010
- Personal Success
  - Time management
  - Learning, thinking
  - Educational & career planning
  - Diversity

Spring 2011
- Liberal Arts

Fall 2011
- Academic Skills
  - Time management
  - Reading
  - Writing
  - Speaking & Communicating

Spring 2012
- Common Read
- Debates
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Seminar Freshman Class

2010-2011 vs 2011-2012
First Year Initiative (FYI)
- Select 6 comparisons, Carnegie class comparisons

Strengths (10 factors)
- Developing Connections*
  - Connections with faculty, connections with peers, sense of belonging, satisfaction with college
- Course objectives
  - Improved study strategies, academic & cognitive skills, out of class engagement, knowledge of academic services, time management, study strategies

* Role of Faculty in Directorate
THE PILOT Seminar Fall 2011

Strengths

Improved Study Strategies

Improved Academic/ Cognitive Skills

Improved Time Management

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Seminar Fall 2011

- **First Year Initiative (FYI)**
  - Select 6 comparisons, Carnegie class comparisons

- **Weaknesses (5 factors)**
  - Course Objectives
  - Course Readings
  - Critical Thinking
  - Course Pedagogy
  - *Other*: campus policies & knowledge of wellness
THE PILOT Seminar Fall 2011

Weaknesses

Usefulness of Course Readings

Course Pedagogy

Improved Critical Thinking

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Seminar Spring 2011

Course effectiveness*

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Seminar Professor Effectiveness

Professor Effectiveness 10-11

- Below Average: 8.4%
- Average: 35.7%
- Above Average: 50.4%

Professor Effectiveness 11-12

- Below Average: 3.1%
- Average: 15.3%
- Above Average: 81.5%
**THE PILOT**
Seminar Peer Mentors Effectiveness

*Peer Effectiveness 10-11*
- Below Average: 1.9%
- Average: 19.1%
- Above Average: 77.9%

*Peer Effectiveness 11-12*
- Below Average: 4%
- Average: 96%
- Above Average: None
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Orientation Objective

- Facilitate student academic and social transition and adjustment to Dominican College.

- Support the students in building and developing connections with faculty, administrators, staff, and other students.
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Orientation Schedule 2010

- **Academic Program**
  - Keynote Speaker
  - FS Instructor/Advisor
  - Library
  - Learning Resources
  - Career Development
  - Academic Technology
  - Office of Special Services

- **Student Life Program**
  - Title IX performers
  - Student Life staff
  - Clubs
  - Intramural Sports
THE PILOT
Orientation Schedule 2010

- Academic Program
  - Meet the Dean
  - Keynote Speaker
  - FS Instructor/Advisor
- Library
  - Learning Resources
  - Career Development
- Academic Technology
- Office of Special Services

- Student Life Program
  - Meet the Dean
  - Title IX performers
  - Student Life staff
  - Campus Ministry & volunteer opportunities
  - Clubs
  - Intramural Sports
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Orientation Schedule 2011

- **Academic Program**
  - Keynote Speaker
  - FS Instructor/Advisor
  - *Convocation*
  - *CIRP Survey*
  - Academic service session

- **Student Life Program**
  - Title IX performers
  - Student Life staff
THE PILOT
Orientation Schedule 2011

- **Academic Program**
  - Keynote Speaker
  - FS Instructor/Advisor
- Convocation
- CIRP Survey
- Academic service session

- **Student Life Program**
  - Title IX performers
  - Student Life staff
  - Student life service sessions
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Interest Groups

- Freshman Interest Group
  - Healthy Living

- A hybrid academic and student life in-residence program for first year students.

- Faculty and Resident Assistant
  - 1 male module, 1 female module
  - 20 students in each
  - Resident & commuters
ACTIVITIES

Strengths
- Preferential Dorm facilities

Weaknesses
- Low attendance
- Lack of communication between RAs and faculty
- Poor coordination of events
**THE PILOT**

Convocation

- A welcome event from an Academic perspective.
- Mandatory for all Freshmen & Faculty
- 45-60 minutes
- Faculty address (from Directorate)
- Student address (from Alpha Lambda Delta)
- Sign Matriculation Book
- Gift as “memory” of pledge
THE PILOT
Convocation

- **Strengths**
  - Meaningful experience
  - Instilled a sense of welcome
  - Stressed importance of academics

- **Weaknesses**
  - Timing of event
THE PRESENT

Implications

- Administration
- Freshman Directorate
- Freshman Seminar
- Orientation
- Freshman Activities
  - Out 4 Lunch
  - Convocation
HE FUTURE....?

More than an education....

A relationship
QUESTIONS?

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