Assessment Results & Recommendations for UNIV 101

University 101 course evaluation results improved again from 2013 to 2014. Students are still finding the course to be more valuable every year and are more likely to recommend the course to others.

Last year, University 101 Programs emphasized improving meaningful homework in UNIV 101. Due to instructor efforts, the meaningful homework question of the engaging pedagogies factor of the First-Year Seminar Assessment (FYSA) had the most significant improvement from 2013 to 2014. However, it is still the lowest scoring question on that factor, and we must continue to improve our efforts related to meaningful homework.

Assignments in UNIV 101 should:

- Be shared or used in class.
- Produce meaningful products.
- Utilize application and reflection.
- Be given timely and meaningful feedback.
- Ask students to complete higher order learning tasks (asking students to create, evaluate, analyze, or apply information).
The second lowest rated question on the engaging pedagogies factor of the FYSA was productive use of class time. Class time can be used productively by beginning and ending on time, fostering meaningful discussion, focusing on things of interest to students, and breaking class periods into 15-20 minute chunks. It is important that we use the entire class period productively and not dismiss class early.

To further support meaningful homework and using class time productively, University 101 Programs met with top performing instructors from fall 2014 and developed themes for how they used their class time (see handout #1). The 2014-15 UNIV 101 Student Advisory Council provided input on which topics were of most interest/importance to first-year students related to each learning outcome (see handout #2).

Faculty Development
- The Faculty Resource Manual and SharePoint have been updated:
  - The Syllabus Preparation chapter of the FRM has new recommended policies for UNIV 101 syllabi.
  - Additional details have been provided to the recommendations for assignments, weights, and grading scale document in the Grading and Assignments chapter of the FRM to provide greater clarity for the common course requirements for assignments (see handout #3).
  - SharePoint now has a functioning search tool to find resources based on keywords.
- In response to instructor demand, this fall, UNIV 101 Instructors will be able to observe UNIV 101 in Action! This new initiative will provide the opportunity for instructors to observe how other instructors teach the course and interact with their co-instructor and students. Emails will be sent with more information on how to get involved.
- University 101 is sharing articles, pictures and videos on YouTube and Twitter – Utilize #u101 this fall!
- Instructors should save-the-date for the 7th Annual Building Connections Conference on Wednesday, May 27 in the Russell House University Union. This year’s event will be highlighted by a keynote address from Dr. Brad Garner. Participants will receive a copy of Teaching in the First-Year Seminar and the FYRE book.

Campus Partner Presentations
Campus Partner Presentations for 2015 can be found on the University 101 Programs website (see handout #4). Campus Partner’s ask that University 101 instructors:
- Communicate with your presenter prior to the presentation regarding the set-up of your room, what technology is available, how else you may be covering the topic, and if you are unable to be present.
- Prepare your students for the presentation by introducing the presenter, the topic, and reminding them of class expectations for when a speaker is present.
- Role model appropriate behavior for your students and help manage students who might not be demonstrating respectful behavior.

Also new this year, University 101 Programs has invested in the development of ScheduleCenter, which will make registering for Campus Partner Presentations even easier. Campus Partner Presentation scheduling will begin the morning of June 3.
Transitions
This fall, all sections of UNIV 101 will utilize the 2014-2015 edition of Transitions. Remember that Transitions is used in all sections of University 101 to provide a consistent source of important information for students. While it is designed to serve as a resource for incoming students it is not intended to reflect the entirety of the curriculum. Developed specifically for the University of South Carolina, this book provides a baseline of information that students will need to help them make the most of their first-year experience. Instructors are encouraged to utilize Transitions to foster discussion in class, and not to quiz students on its content.

Please note that the Transitions app will not be available in 2015. However, the activities will still be available on the University 101 Programs website.

First-Year Reading Experience
The 2015 First-Year Reading Experience selection is Where’d You Go Bernadette by Maria Semple. Instructors will receive the book at the Building Connections Conference, and Peer/Graduate Leaders will be notified via email when they can pick-up the book from the University 101 Programs office. This year’s event will begin at 8:30AM on Monday, August 17, and take place in the Colonial Life Arena. Stay tuned to summer emails for more information.

Next Steps & Co-Instructor Planning
Co-instructors should review the next steps handout (#5) and discuss the following with their co-instructors:

1. How might your True Colors impact your co-teaching relationship (handout #6)?
2. How will the PL/GL contribute to your section and engage with your students? Please refer to the PL/GL Personal Action Plan and the Top Ways Peer & Graduate Leaders Engage with UNIV 101 Students handout (#7).
3. How and when you will communicate this spring, summer, and fall? Co-instructors should meet face-to-face for an hour each week in the fall to plan daily lessons and discuss class dynamics.

Handouts
1. Top Performing UNIV 101 Instructor Themes from Fall 2014
2. Recommendations from 2014-15 UNIV 101 Student Advisory Council
3. Recommendations for Assignments, Weights, and Grading Scale in UNIV 101
4. 2015 Campus Partner Presentations for UNIV 101
5. 2015 Next Steps and Important Dates
6. True Colors Check Sheet
7. Top Ways Peer & Graduate Leaders Engage with UNIV 101 Students
8. UNIV 101 Syllabus Review Check Sheet 2015