**Committee Report Form | YSU**

**COVER SHEET TO BE ATTACHED TO ALL REPORTS SUBMITTED TO THE ACADEMIC SENATE**

**Date of Report:** 4/14/2025 **Senate Meeting Date:** 4/23/2025 Report # **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Intended Action:**  Informational\_X\_\_ Senate Vote \_\_\_ Consultative/Advisory\_\_\_

**Name of Committee Submitting Report:** Academic Senate First Year Experience

**Committee Status (elected chartered, appointed chartered, ad hoc, etc.):** Appointed

**Names of Committee Members:** (all appointed)

Dr. Nicolette Powe, Chair & Associate Professor of Public Health; Dr. Jennifer Pintar, Provost; Michael Greco, Director of Resch Academic Success Center; Dr. Kevin Ball, Associate Provost; Dr. Maria Conti Maravillas, Assistant Professor of English & World Languages; Mary Coller, First Year Student Experiences and Academic Advising; Dr. Mollie Hartup, Director of Honor College; Grace Cummings, Student Representative; Martha I Pallante, Professor of Humanities & Social Sciences

**Please write a brief summary of the report the Committee is submitting to the Senate:**

The Academic Senate First Year Experience (FYE) Committee is charged with reviewing best practices for FYE content and delivery, ensuring alignment with the university mission, and evaluating the effectiveness of YSU 1500. With the course now required and centrally managed, the committee is reassessing its role and exploring a revised charge for Senate approval.

**If substantive changes in your committee recommendation are made from the floor, would the committee prefer that the matter be sent back to committee for further consideration?**

**Introduction and Rationale**

Offering the First Year Experience (FYE) course for the entire semester provides several key benefits:

1. **Sustained Support:** Extending the course to 15 weeks allows consistent academic, personal, and social support throughout the semester, especially during critical periods like midterms and finals.
2. **Stronger Student-Instructor Connection:** A longer course duration helps build stronger relationships between students, instructors, and peer leaders, fostering a greater sense of belonging.
3. **Improved Academic Skills Development:** With more time, students can better develop and apply essential skills such as time management, study strategies, and goal setting over the course of a full academic term.
4. **Deeper Reflection and Growth:** A semester-long course allows for more meaningful reflection activities, promoting a growth mindset and resilience as students navigate challenges.
5. **More Time for Campus Engagement:** The extended format enables greater exposure to campus resources, student services, and involvement opportunities, helping students integrate into the campus community.
6. **Aligned with Academic Advising Cycles:** The full semester structure supports timely academic advising, course planning, and registration for the next term.
7. **Higher Retention and Success Rates:** Research shows that extended FYE programs contribute to increased retention, improved GPA, and higher student satisfaction.

By offering the FYE course for the entire semester, YSU can enhance student success, engagement, and long-term persistence.

**Revised Policy/Policies (when applicable)**

N/A

**Recommendation**

The committee supports expanding the First Year Experience (FYE) course to a 15-week model to provide sustained support for students throughout the semester. In addition, we recommend developing an online version of the FYE course to better serve online students, with enhanced engagement strategies and continued access to virtual office hours. To align with the course’s current structure and management, we propose reviewing and revising the committee’s charge accordingly.