Students enter institutions of higher education with many questions. In an effort to address these questions, a quality first year experience for students is essential. This comprehensive experience should consistently expose all new and transfer students to the university. Thus, there is a need to expand our current curriculum to include a first year experience course that meets this goal as we strive to enhance the student experience at the university.

The Charge
- Instill pride and a deep appreciation of the university's history through a first year seminar course.
- Develop comprehensive and consistent first year experience courses that encompass the values of the university, and the students who comprise it.
- Reshape the academic and student life experience by exposing students to the many academic and social options available at the university.

Goal I
Create the curriculum for a common first year experience course for all students based on best practices and feedback from current students and faculty members.

Strategies
A. Develop a name for the first year experience that reflects the values that we hold true as a university.
B. Engage faculty members who currently teach the first year seminar course to explore the common elements of the course in an effort to identify the salient learning outcomes for students.
C. Develop a student focus group to elicit feedback on their first year experience along with recommendations on how to enhance the course.
D. Utilize the feedback from students and faculty members to create a first year seminar handbook for the university.

Goal II
Develop a structure for the first year experience course that promotes student success in the classroom and beyond.

Strategies
A. Expand the duration of the first year experience course to provide additional time for instruction and exploration.
B. Limit the enrollment of each section of first year experience courses to no more than 30 students and provide peer mentors/teaching assistants for each section.
C. Require students to take a first year experience course their first semester at the university.
D. Provide training and professional development for faculty members who teach first year experience courses.
E. Provide comprehensive information related to the financing of higher education in an effort to help students reduce the cost of attending college.
F. Provide support for career pathway development through career services.