

October 30, 2014

To: Dr. Jay Gogue, President

Through: Dr. Timothy Boosinger, Provost

Through: AU Senate

From: Dr. Xing Fang, Chair of Academic Standards Committee

Subject: Policy Proposal for Exploratory Freshman Admission

The 2013-2018 Auburn University Strategic Plan establishes as its first priority to "Enhance Student Success and Diversify Enrollment." This priority is supported by a number of strategic goals and commitments that are intended to further its success. Among them are:

Strategic Goal 1: The University will emphasize student retention and achievement by encouraging and expecting timely degree completion and by clearing path ways to student success.

Strategic Goal 1.A: Improve retention and graduation rates to surpass regional averages for flagship public universities.

Strategic Goal 1.D: Develop a Freshman Advising Center for undecided students.

Strategic Goal 1. Strategic Commitment B.2: Revise first-year orientation programs to emphasize not only academic success, but also career and professional development.

The policy proposal for Exploratory Freshman Admission was developed by Dr. Constance C. Relihan, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies, based on recommendations from ad hoc freshman advising center committee and ad hoc orientation review committee. The policy proposal was discussed, revised, and voted by the Academic Standards Committee on September 2, 2014. The proposal was submitted to the Senate Steering Committee in September where the proposal was further discussed, revised, and recommended it for full consideration by the Senate.

Recommendation of the policy proposal of Exploratory Freshman Admission is given below:

Individuals applying to Auburn as first-time College students would be eligible to enroll as "Exploratory" students, without having to select a particular major or college. Advising for

these students would be assigned to the Freshman Advising Center, where they would receive intensive advising and career counseling provided by advisors trained in the rudiments of all Auburn majors. Students would be required to select a major and transition into a College or School after completing two semesters at Auburn. This option would not replace current undeclared options in Liberal Arts or in Sciences and Mathematics.

The policy proposal was presented and discussed in the University Senate meeting on October 7, 2014, presented and voted in the University Senate meeting on November 4, 2014. Attached are a memo from Dr. Constance C. Relihan about the policy proposal, the meeting minutes documenting the discussion and approval of the Academic Standards Committee, and the presentation file to the senate meeting, which provide more information and explain more fully the rationale for the proposal.

I hope that you will give this proposal serious consideration. Please let me know if there is more information about the policy proposal of Exploratory Freshman Admission you would like me to provide.

Attachments: Dr. Constance C. Relihan, "Two Policy Proposals in Support of the 2013-2018 Auburn University Strategic Plan," 6/12/2014
Dr. Xing Fang, "Minutes for the Academic Standards Committee," 9/2/2014
Academic Standards Committee, "Exploratory Freshman Admission and Conditional Admission", presentation file to the senate meeting, 10/7/2014 and 11/4/2014