

## REVISITING USG RESOLUTION R. 20-02 REGARDING SAGES UNIVERSITY SEMINARS

During the 2010-2011 academic year, the FSCUE Curriculum Subcommittee reviewed USG General Assembly Resolution R. 20-02: A Resolution to Adjust the SAGES Categorical Requirement. The Curriculum Subcommittee offered a three-part recommendation in response to the USG resolution that was presented at the FSCUE meeting of May 3, 2011, as described in the attached excerpt from the minutes of that meeting.

The FSCUE chose to adopt the first part of the recommendation (which was subsequently approved by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and has been implemented), but asked the Curriculum Subcommittee to do further consultation about the other parts. In particular, the Curriculum Subcommittee was asked (1) to consult with the Director of the SAGES Program about the feasibility of offering sufficient First and University Seminars in the Natural World thematic group to be able to require one of all students, and (2) to do further consultation with USG because the recommendation was different from what was originally proposed.

At its meeting on November 22, 2011, the FSCUE Curriculum Subcommittee met with Dean Peter Whiting, the Director of the SAGES Program. Dean Whiting indicated that, with sufficient lead time, he believes that it is feasible to offer sufficient seminars in the Natural World area to require that students complete their First and University Seminars across the three thematic areas: Natural World, Social World, and Symbolic World. The Case School of Engineering is planning an initiative that will boost its participation in First Seminars, increasing the offerings in the Natural World area by perhaps 15 seminars. In addition, Dean Whiting believes that it is possible to shift the hiring of SAGES Fellows who teach University Seminars in the direction of the Natural World area.

The discussion did, however, take a turn in a direction that had not been considered last year. It was noted that some students are assigned to special sections of First Seminar designed either for international students needing help with English as a second language or for developmental writers for which the expectation is that students will be enrolled in First Seminar for two semesters. Given the nature of these special sections, it seemed appropriate that the Common Curriculum thematic group be

2. That the SAGES Program be modified to eliminate the Common Curriculum (CC) thematic group of First Seminars beginning August 2013, with the exception of the sections designed for ESL students and developmental writers;
3. That students who matriculate in August 2013 or later be expected to take a First Seminar and



The FSCUE will forward this resolution to the chair of the Faculty Senate for immediate consideration by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee so that it might be implemented starting in fall 2011.