Strategic Priority Funding
Application Form
2007-2008

Project Name FYE Seminar 100 Expansion

Applicant's Name Joel Johnson  Mailing Address 10 Gage Complex
Applicant Signature
Email Address joel.johnson-1@mnsu.edu  Phone Number 507-389-5498

Dept. Chair Signature  Date
Dean Signature  Date
Vice President Signature  Date 11-30-06
Date Submitted to Office of Institutional Planning: November 30, 2006
(Deadline is November 30, 2006)

Priority Number

#10

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ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO
Minnesota State University, Mankato
FY08 Strategic Priority Funding Request

1. Which Strategic Priority and Objective does this funding request support? See link for Strategic Priority definitions. http://www.mnsu.edu/president/priorities/definitions/

Strategic Priority Enrollment Management Innovative Idea: Expansion of FYE Seminar 100

Strategic Priority Objective Increase New Student Retention at MSU

2. Provide a brief description of your project. Please attach a one page project narrative:

FYE Seminar 100 is an existing 1 credit General Education Course for First Year students focused on assisting First Year students to successfully matriculate to higher education and the MSU campus. Currently, 32 sections are offered each fall, with approximate availability for an estimated 47% of the First Year class. This request is to enhance the number of course offerings by 10 additional sections for fall 2006, creating an additional 300 seats available to first year students, fall of 2007. Desire would be to increase course offerings by 10 sections per academic year until seat availability allows for 90-95% of First Year students the ability to enroll. Slow growth will allow for quality control as additional instructors are recruited.

3. How will the funding request support the Strategic Priority?

a. Funding will support faculty instructional salaries for both IFO and AASF instructors for 1 credit of assigned load for ten additional sections of FYE Seminar 100 for fall 2006

b. 

c. 

d. 

4. Describe the measurable outcomes:

a. Higher retention rate for first year class at MSU

b. Achieved course goals, as established by Gen Ed approved curricular offerings

c. Higher GPA’s for students enrolled in FYE Seminar

5. Assessment Measures – Define what methods will be used in assessing the effectiveness of the project.

a. GPA and Retention rates will be tracked for all students taking FYE 100, then compared to students not enrolled in the course

b. Pre and Post testing instrument utilized

c. 

d. 
6. Reports Due:
   Mid Year Report due: January 31, 2008


8. Budget Request: From Strategic Initiative Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Request</th>
<th>Match</th>
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<tr>
<td>Salary</td>
<td>$11,000</td>
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<td>Fringe</td>
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<td>Grad Assistant</td>
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<td>Grad Assistant Stipend</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non Salary (Specify)</td>
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<td>Equipment</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Budget Requested</strong></td>
<td>$12,500</td>
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</table>

9. Special consideration (e.g. room, building, office or any impact on other divisions):

None

* Pending funding.
Narrative for FYE Seminar 100 Proposal

This submitted request is for funding to increase the number of course offerings for the FYE Seminar 100 class. Requested is the salary dollars required to increase the overall number of sections available for fall 2007 from the 32 sections currently, to 42 sections, thus opening an additional 300 seats for first year student registration. The long term goal is to incrementally increase the total number of FYE Seminar 100 sections, to allow for all first year students to enroll. Currently, seating is available for approximately 44% of the first year class, with the 32 sections offered per current base budget.

The rational for incremental expansion is to allow for quality control within the instructor recruitment process. Incremental growth allows for new instructors yearly to be recruited, trained, and mentored by returning/experienced FYE Seminar 100 instructors, keep curricular consistency, and insure quality delivery, currently exhibited by the FYE instructors to date.

What is FYE Seminar 100?

The FYE Seminar 100 is a one credit general education course with the following published course goal and learning outcomes:

"The main goals of First year Seminar are to promote further development of student success skills, such as reading, writing and speaking in order to help students gain intellectual confidence, build in the expectation of academic success, and to provide assistance in making the transition to the University.

With the help of the course students will be able to:

- Experience higher personal expectations of his/her ability to meaningfully participate in academic life.
- Define and give examples of critical thinking.
- Interact with other students regarding academic matters.
- Affirm that careful thinking is an important aspect of the educational process.
- Make a comfortable transition to college life (Undergraduate bulletin, 2006)."

Is FYE Seminar effective?

Per data pulled from the Office of Institutional Research, the five year average retention rate for students enrolled in the course is 79.7%, with the 2004 and 2005 co-horts illustrating an 80% and 81% retention rate respectively (Please see attached). Pre and Post test assessment illustrate further course goal achievements.

- 11% gain in ability to identify short and long term academic goals
- 15% gain in ability to identify faculty/staff mentors
- 15% gain in critical thinking skills
- 10% gain in ability to identify how to get involved on campus
  - Each area, students moved to the 90% or higher as an overall co-hort at the post test of achievement in each area (2005 Post Test Data, FYE Office).

The money requested is for salary dollars, per IFO and MSUAASF contracts, for instructional dollars per credit hour load needed to fund the additional sections.
Retention Rates for Full-Time New Freshmen enrolled in First Year Seminar their first fall term at MSU

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Cohort</th>
<th>Returned next Fall</th>
<th>Retention Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>659 534</td>
<td>81.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>745 577</td>
<td>77.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>748 592</td>
<td>79.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>835 668</td>
<td>80.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>807 654</td>
<td>81.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average:</strong></td>
<td><strong>79.7%</strong></td>
<td></td>
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