

DRAFT

## First-Year Seminar Request for Proposals

To all faculty involved in baccalaureate programs:

Please consider submitting a proposal for a baccalaureate first-year seminar for fall 2010 and earn a supplement to your salary this summer for course preparation and this fall for offering the seminar! This is a golden opportunity for you to share your enthusiasm and passion for a topic in your discipline(s) to first-year students.

Proposal due date: Close of business April 2, 2010  
Send proposals in Word format to [fygen@uaf.edu](mailto:fygen@uaf.edu)

The UAF Faculty Senate recently approved a new course FYE F100 First Year Seminar for 1 credit (1+0).

Faculty bonuses will be paid for seminar development (\$1000) and each semester the class is delivered (\$2000). Enrollment is limited to 25 students and the class will not be offered if enrollment is less than 12. During Fall 2010 four seminars will be offered; the Vice Provost is working to make these seminars tuition and fee free for first-year baccalaureate students for fall 2010. The intent is to build a first-year seminar process over a period of two to three years so we can learn from experience and refine the selection, delivery and required elements of the seminars to meet the needs of our students. A faculty committee with representation from science, liberal arts, management, education, and engineering will be appointed by Deans of the colleges and schools to review applications and make course selections and report to the Vice Provost. The committee will assess the proposals based on their perception of student interest, quality of proposal content and how the required retention components will be included.

As a research university UAF should communicate how research, scholarship and creative expression is conducted early in a student's academic experience. The intended student learning outcomes for the seminars are as follows:

- Learn how scholarship is conducted in a specific discipline
- Provide an introduction to current areas of scholarly pursuit
- Introduce students to unfamiliar academic areas
- Improve student understanding of academic planning, program requirements, and the student code of conduct

First-year seminars are also intended to improve student persistence by connecting students to one another and to a faculty member in a small (15-25) instructional group setting. National research (e.g., Pascarella and Terenzini 2005) has clearly identified first-year seminars as a way to improve student 4-year graduation rates by 5 to 15 percentage points and college grade performance regardless of student pre-college differences. UAF's six year graduation rate is about half the national average. Our intent is to create a first-year seminar series modeled after the freshman seminar series offered at The Ohio State University (see <http://freshmanseminars.osu.edu/>). Currently, UAF does not require that first-time baccalaureate students take these seminars; however, this may change in the future as the Core revision work is currently underway.

Seminar proposals must include the following:

- a) a course syllabus meeting UAF guidelines and including the retention elements listed below
- b) a brief biographical sketch of the tenure-track or emeritus faculty involved describing their research, scholarly and/or creative activities (one faculty member per proposal)
- c) a summary of the faculty member's instructional assessment system (IAS) information and
- d) any teaching or scholarly awards or recognitions.

Seminars will be content based and on a topic selected by the faculty member (see The Ohio State University web site given above for examples). However, the seminars will be required to include the following retention and/or collegiate specific objectives:

- 1) Completing a four-year academic plan
- 2) Purpose of the Core curriculum and requirements for different degrees (BS vs BA) and majors
- 3) Familiarity using UAOnline including how to register, add/drop, check freshman progress reports check financial aid, and change contact information
- 4) Learning to use DegreeWorks to determine requirements remaining to graduate
- 5) A clear understanding of UA Board of Regent Policy on the student code of conduct including plagiarism

These retention objectives could be handled outside the seminar setting through assignments and quizzes and using Blackboard courseware (use of UAF's courseware is a requirement). The Vice Provost and the Academic Advising Center staff will work with instructors to develop common materials for these retention objectives.

Please contact Vice Provost Dana Thomas at [dlthomas@alaska.edu](mailto:dlthomas@alaska.edu) or 474-6253 if you have any questions.