

**University Academic Assessment Committee  
Report on Fall Fusion Program**

**Fall 2011 Fall Fusion Summary**

**Background:**

- 60 students enrolled in Fall 2011 cohort of the Fall Fusion Program
- 56 Fall Fusion students (93%) were offered admission to SU in the spring 2012 semester based on acceptable performance at WOrWic during the fall 2011 semester.
- 54 Fall Fusion students enrolled at SU for the spring 2012 semester

**Assessments:**

- Fall 2011 survey of satisfaction administered to the Fall Fusion students
- Spring 2012 survey of satisfaction administered to Fall Fusion and first-time students enrolled for the spring 2012 semester
- Analysis comparing Fall Fusion, first-time spring 2012, and first-time fall 2011 enrolled students. These three groups were compared on:
  - Earned credit hours (fall 2011 & spring 2012)
  - Term GPA (fall 2011 & spring 2012)
  - Retention (fall 2012)\*\*\*will be completed following the fall 2012 census

**Results:**

- Fall 2011 Satisfaction Survey
  - Respondents: 15 (25%) of the fall 2011 Fall Fusion Students
  - Results:
    - 80% indicated that they were confident that the program had adequately prepared them for their spring semester at SU.
    - Only one-third of respondents were challenged *quite a bit* or *very much* by their fall coursework
    - Only 20% indicated that they would definitely recommend the Fall Fusion program to a friend. Comments from the respondents indicated that the schedule of classes and the lack of challenging coursework as reasons.
    - While the majority of students were satisfied with their on-campus housing (73%) and SU advising (67%), fewer were satisfied with the advising they received from WorWic (27%) and the fall course offerings (47%).
    - 67% of Fall Fusion respondents felt like a part of the SU community while participating in the program.
    - When asked for comments, most respondents indicated that the lack of course offerings was their biggest complaint.
- Spring 2012 Satisfaction Survey
  - Respondents:

- 18 (33%) Fall Fusion students enrolled for the spring 2012 semester
  - 87 (40%) students from the spring 2012 first-time student cohort
  - 94% of Fall Fusion respondents felt challenged by their spring 2012 coursework (*quite a bit or very much*) compared to 67% of spring 2012 first-time students.
  - At the end of the spring 2012 semester, 44% of Fall Fusion respondents felt like a part of the SU community (*quite a bit or very much*) compared to 36% of spring 2012 first-time students. At the end of the fall semester, 67% of Fall Fusion students indicated that they felt a part of the SU community.
  - Fall Fusion students were more likely to use CSA resources and visit the library with greater frequency than other spring 2012 first-time students.
  - Approximately half of Fall Fusion students and 49% of spring 2012 first-time students studied less than 11 hours per week. Comparatively, 22% of Fall Fusion and 22% spring 2012 first-time students socialized more than 20 hours per week.
  - Following a semester of SU coursework, 41% of Fall Fusion students indicated that the program prepared them for their SU coursework. This can be compared to 80% of respondents surveyed BEFORE the spring semester.
- Performance Comparison
  - 220 first-time students in spring 2012 were compared to 54 Fall Fusion students that enrolled in SU during the spring 2012 semester. These groups were also compared to 1,177 first-time students that enrolled in fall 2011 and returned for the spring 2012 semester.
  - Fall 2011 first-time students had significantly higher semester grades (2.92) than Fall Fusion (2.42) and spring 2012 (2.36) first-time students.
  - Spring 2012 first-time students attempted significantly fewer credit hours (15.1) than fall 2011 first-time students (15.4) and Fall Fusion (15.4) students.
  - Spring 2012 first-time students (13) earned significantly fewer credit hours than fall 2011 first-time students (14.1).
  - For all comparisons, there were no significant differences between Fall Fusion and spring 2012 first-time students.

## Fall 2012 Fall Fusion Summary

### Background:

- 57 students enrolled in the Fall 2012 cohort of the Fall Fusion Program
- 57 Fall Fusion students (100%) were offered admission to SU in the spring 2013 semester based on acceptable performance at WorWic during the fall 2012 semester.
- 52 Fall Fusion students enrolled at SU for the spring 2013 semester

### Assessment:

- Fall 2012 survey of satisfaction administered to the Fall Fusion students

### Results:

- Fall 2012 Satisfaction Survey
  - Respondents: 41 (72%) of the fall 2012 Fall Fusion students
  - Results:
    - 95% indicated that they were confident that the program had adequately prepared them for their spring semester at SU. This is a 15% percentage point increase from the previous year.
    - Only 29% (less than one-third) of respondents were challenged *quite a bit* or *very much* by their fall coursework. This is similar to the results for the fall 2011 Fall Fusion cohort.
    - 76% indicated that they would definitely recommend the Fall Fusion program to a friend. This is a dramatic increase from 20% in the previous year. Comments from the respondents indicated that the program helped provide a smooth transition from high school to college.
    - While the majority of students were satisfied with SU advising (93%) and their on-campus housing (79%), fewer were satisfied with the advising they received from WorWic (55%) and the fall course offerings (52%).
      - It should be noted that there was a 26 and 28 percentage point increase in SU and WorWic advising satisfaction, respectively, compared to last year's Fall Fusion cohort.
    - 61% of Fall Fusion respondents felt like they were a part of the SU community while participating in the program.
    - When asked for comments, most respondents indicated that the lack of course offerings and not feeling challenged enough were their biggest complaints. However, it is also notable to mention that several students praised Seth Endicott (the graduate assistant for the program) as a great mentor and asset to the Fall Fusion program.
- Performance Comparison

- 108 first-time students in spring 2013 were compared to 52 Fall Fusion students that enrolled in SU during the spring 2013 semester. These groups were also compared to 1,122 first-time students that enrolled in fall 2012 and returned for the spring 2013 semester.
- Fall 2012 first-time students had significantly higher semester grades (2.99) than Fall Fusion (2.39) and spring 2013 (2.52) first-time students.
- Spring 2013 first-time students attempted fewer credit hours (14.7) than fall 2012 first-time students (15.4) and Fall Fusion (14.8) students.
- Spring 2013 first-time students (12.8) earned significantly fewer credit hours than fall 2012 first-time students (14.2). Fall fusion students earned an average of 13.1 credit hours.
- There were no significant differences for fall 2013 retention rates (between fall 2012 first-time (80.5%), spring 2013 first-time (85.8%), and Fall Fusion (86.5%) students).

**University Academic Assessment Committee (UAAC)  
Recommendation to Faculty Senate regarding  
Fall Fusion Pilot Program**

**Background**

- A 3-year Pilot program known as Fall Fusion began in Fall 2011
- Evaluation of the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the program concluded it was not considered successful\*
  - \* Primary evaluation factor involves comparing the performance during the Spring semester of 1) Fall Fusion students and 2) new Spring students, but no advantage was found for Fall Fusion
- The evaluation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the program is consistent with the 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Additional issues also raise questions about the need to renew the program
  - Potential dorm housing issues in immediate and foreseeable future
  - General impression of faculty opposition to the Pilot Program
  - Unintended pressure on SU faculty to provide advising to Fall Fusion student
- Additional evaluation factors originally requested—such as the financial impact on campus—were not examined because of resource limitations and priorities for the UURA.

**Recommendations**

- The University Academic Assessment Committee (UAAC) recommends that Fall Fusion program not be renewed beyond the initial 3 year Pilot program
- Request that any future consideration of this program be shared with Faculty Senate before it would be renewed