

## SALISBURY UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE MOTION

Submit this form to the Faculty Senate President

SUBJECT: Reaffirming the opinion of the GEOC on certain First Year Seminar issues.

SENATOR PROPOSING MOTION: José I. Juncosa, Jr.

SENATOR SECONDING MOTION: Thomas Lamey

---

MOTION: The Faculty Senate concurs with the opinion of the GEOC that:

- First Year Seminar is a requirement for all First Time Students, and for all transfer students with less than 30 credits.
- Specific First Year Seminar courses may not be required by any major, minor, concentration, track or focus at SU.
- First Year Seminar courses may not be prerequisites of any other SU course.
- First Year Seminar courses should be capped at 18 students per section.

### JUSTIFICATION:

Regarding the first item, even though some of this language was already included within the General Education Model adopted by the Faculty and the accompanying documents, there were some instances where the exact meaning of “First Year” was unclear. After deliberation, the GEOC voted to define “First Year” as First Time Students (i.e. fresh from High School or equivalent) and transfer students with less than 30 credits (i.e. freshman status). This will not affect any of the students that transfer in with a completed AS or BS degree.

Regarding the second item, GEOC considers that requiring specific First Year Seminar courses within a major goes against the intention of the course that students be able to choose from a great variety of options so they can find a topic that interests them personally, thus making them more engaged with the class. In addition, requiring a specific FYS course might cause problems with students changing majors, among other issues.

The third item is related to the second, because making an FYS course a prerequisite of another course is essentially a roundabout way of including the FYS course in a major/minor/etc. without actually specifying it in the curriculum.

On the fourth item, the GEOC agreed with the subcommittee’s opinion that FYS sections should be capped at 18 students per section. FYS classes at many institutions are no larger than 20 students. In addition, many rating agencies use the arbitrary number of 19 to designate a class size as “small” or not. Finally, 18 students is large enough to create a good community, yet small enough that students are less likely to feel unengaged due to class size.

### ANTICIPATED IMPACT:

Negative: None. These are issues that had already been determined by the GEOC, so no change would be happening by approving this motion.

Positive: The aforementioned determinations of the GEOC will be clarified to Faculty.

Is this a recommendation to the Provost? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_  
Is this a recommendation to someone else? No\_\_\_\_ Yes, to \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: Number of Senators Present: Votes in Favor: Motion Passes or Fails: