University 101 Proposal

1. What is University 101?
   - see syllabus and student handbook

2. Proposal from Student Instruction Committee

   All entering students not transferring at the Sophomore level take UNIV 101 (the Orientation course) with the proviso that colleges and schools having their own courses may petition for these courses to substitute for UNIV 101 provided their syllabi include certain core elements:
   1. Orientation to the University.
   2. Time Management and Study Skills.
   3. Social issues (these topics may be addressed by students attending evening meetings conducted by members of the Office of Residential Education and others expert in these topics).

3. Why did the Commission recommend this course for first-year students?
   - research has shown that institutions with a student population of over 12,500 have seen an increase in student GPA, retention, and overall student satisfaction with the institution as a result of the implementation of a required Orientation (sometimes called First-Year Seminar) course.
   - Universities whose reported outcomes we have studied:
     - Cal. State, Long Beach
     - Northern Illinois
     - Ohio
     - San Diego State
     - Texas A&M
     - Memphis
     - Toledo
     - Univ. Cal., Santa Barbara
     - Maryland
     - South Carolina
     - Washington State
     - Wright State

4. What results have we seen at WVU?
- Fall ’98, ’99, ‘00
  - Completion of Orientation 1 significantly decreases the probability that incoming freshmen will fail to re-enroll at WVU the following semester. Of the students who completed Orientation 1 only 6.7% failed to re-enroll the following semester compared with a 12.2% dropout rate for students who were not enrolled.
  - 42% of students report that that their instructor was “outstanding” compared to other instructors they have had at WVU
  - 84% of students report that that their instructor was “outstanding” or “good” compared to other instructors they have had at WVU
  - Only 5% rated their instructor as “poor”
  - 90% thought their instructor’s “approachability was either “outstanding” or “good”
  - 71% of students agreed or strongly agreed that Orientation 1 was relevant to their needs
  - 78% agreed or strongly agreed that they had learnt study skills and time management techniques in Orientation 1
  - 62% agreed or strongly agreed that Orientation 1 helped them make a smoother transition to college

5. How will the course be managed?
- currently staff 85 sections of 25 students with staff from: Residential Education (52 sections); volunteers from Student Affairs (counselors from Carruth Center; health educators from University Health Services; staff from Career Services, Campus Recreation, Visitors Center, etc.), volunteers from Academic Affairs (Provost, faculty, administrators), and staff from the President’s Office (Parent’s Hotline, Parent’s Club)
- current proposal would require staffing for approx. 120 sections.
  - 52 covered by Residential Education
  - 64 covered by volunteers from Academic and Student Affairs, Academic Advisors, and senior Resident Assistants under the supervision of the Resident Faculty Leader for that residence hall.

6. Credit hours
- 1 credit hour graded course
- the proposal is not suggesting that extra hours be added to graduation, but that students take UNIV. 101 instead of some of the other 1 credit course they currently take (i.e. bowling, tennis, etc.)