

## Agenda

### **FIGs and Pathways**

Karen Sprague asked the UGC to provide input for a decision she needs to make concerning the budget for two programs, FIGs and Pathways.

- FIGs (Freshman Interest Group) are a first-term program for freshmen who are co-enrolled in two large general education classes and a related small seminar class facilitated by one of the professors teaching one of the large classes. The program promotes academic bridging across disciplines and social bonding in the context of an academic setting. Participants have the advantageous experience of interacting with faculty in a smaller, intimate setting.
- The Pathways program extends a FIG-like experience beyond the first term, for one or two years.
- The academic quality of FIGs has improved since 1999, and FIG students from 2001 onward have earned higher GPAs than their non-FIG counterparts, exceeding their predicted GPAs. Before 2000, the average GPAs of FIG and non-FIG students were indistinguishable, and neither group, on average, reached its predicted GPA.
- The academic performance of Pathway students is also good, but not significantly better than that of students who were in FIGs only. All Pathways begin as FIGs in Fall term.
- In contrast, the size and cost / student ratio of the two programs are very different:
  - Regular FIGs: Fall 2004 enrollment ~ 900; cost/student = \$90.00
  - Residential FIGs: Fall 2004 enrollment ~ 500; cost/student = \$400.00 (more expensive than regular FIGs because of board and room for FIG TA)
  - Pathways: Current enrollment =162; cost/student = \$600.00