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MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Larry Williams, Chair
Undergraduate Council

FROM: Dr. Diana Velez, Director 
Undergraduate Scholars@UH

DATE: February 11, 2009

REF.: Request for Implementation of USD Task Force Recommendations

In Fall 2008 the Provost's USD Task Force completed their review of the University Studies Division (USD)—which since Fall 2007 became the Academic Advising Center of the new Undergraduate Scholars@UH. In light of the report and the need for UScholars to finalize its plans for its Fall 2009 FTIC orientation and enrollment activities, we request permission to implement the committee's recommendations as follow:

1. Require all undeclared students to enroll in the UScholars College Success course Core 1101.

Currently, enrollment in Core 1101 is voluntary, and although last Fall UScholars increased significantly the number of undeclared students in this course, making it a requirement for all undeclared students will guarantee that this population of students will benefit from the program in terms of retention and improved GPA performance. This expected outcome is based on studies by UH Institutional Research Office which reports that for the Fall 2007 FTIC cohort, those who attended Core 1101 achieved a retention rate of 92.33% and an average GPA of 2.54. This is higher than the FTIC students who did not attend Core 1101. This group of students, in comparison, had a retention rate of 90.44% and a GPA of 2.52.

2. Reduce the time that entering Fall 2009 undeclared FTIC's can remain as undeclared from the current 60 credit hours to 45 credit hours. This must be contingent on two conditions which were also recommended by the USD Task

Force: (1) the approval and implementation of the 3-minor majors and (2) the creation of a new website for potential students to explore their majors.

3. Further reduce the time that entering 2010 undeclared FTIC's can remain as undeclared from the proposed 2009 level of 45 credit hours to 30 credit hours.
4. Reduce the time that entering Fall 2009 undeclared transfer students with less than 60 credit hours can remain undeclared to two semesters after entering UH (i.e., these students will need to be in a major by Fall 2010).
5. Reduce the time that entering Fall 2009 undeclared transfer students with 60 or more credit hours, including those who previously had a declared major at UH and subsequently became an undeclared student, to one semester (i.e., these students will need to be in a major by Spring 2010).
6. All entering Fall 2010 undeclared transfer students with less than 30 credit hours are to choose a major within their second semester, prior to registration for their 3rd semester courses (i.e., these students will need to be in a major by Fall 2011).
7. All entering Fall 2010 undeclared transfer students with 30-60 credit hours are to choose a major within their first semester at UH, prior to registration for 2nd semester courses (i.e., these students will need to be in a major by Spring 2011).
8. All entering Fall 2010 transfer students with 60 or more credit hours are to choose a major prior to attending UH (i.e. these students will only be accepted into UH with a major).

We appreciate the Undergraduate Council's consideration of this request.