



First Year Experience Program Report
Spring 2011

Office of Institutional Research

March 2011

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Introduction and Overview

The First Year Experience Survey is designed to assess the effectiveness of the First-Year Experience Program (FYE). The program period was from January 24 to January 27, 2011.

The survey was designed by the Office of Institutional Research (OIR) in cooperation with the Core Curriculum Office and was distributed to participating students on the last day of the program. Approximately 246 surveys were distributed to the FYE students, and two hundred thirty six (236) were completed and returned (95.9%).

Methodology and organization of the report:

This report is divided into three sections. In the first section, general questions are presented in frequency tables and figures. In the second section students' evaluation of their experiences in the program presented in frequency tables and figures. In both previous sections, the survey responses values were collapsed into three categories of "Combined Agree" (Strongly Agree and Agree); "Combined Disagree" (Strongly Disagree and Disagree); "Neutral" and "NA" not applicable. In the third section open ended questions are presented.

Students Demographics:

Students' gender was 43.6% female and 45.8% male and 10.6% of students did not report gender.

Survey findings:

Section I: General Questions:

When the students were asked:

1. *"The registration process was clear and well organized"*, 71.2% of students reported 'combined agree', 9.7% reported 'combined disagree', 9.3% reported 'neutral', and 9.7% skipped this question.
2. *"The schedule of events was informative and helpful"*, 80.9% of students reported 'combined agree', 1.7% reported 'combined disagree', 13.1% reported 'neutral', and 4.2% skipped this question.
3. *"I found the opening ceremony interesting and informative"*, 57.2% from the respondents reported 'combined agree', 9.7% reported 'combined disagree' 29.2% reported 'neutral', and 3.8% skipped this question.
4. *"I enjoyed the social events and found them well organized and helpful"*, 73.7% of students reported 'combined agree', 2.1% reported 'combined disagree', 19.9% reported 'neutral', and 4.2% skipped this question.
5. *"The classrooms & other facilities were appropriate for their needs"*, 91.1% of students reported 'combined agree', 4.7% reported 'neutral', no one reported neither 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree' and 4.2% skipped this question.

6. "The class teacher was organized, helpful and communicated effectively", 94.1% of students reported 'combined agree', 2.1% reported 'neutral', no one reported neither 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree' and 3.8% skipped this question.
7. "The student leader was organized, helpful and communicated effectively", 93.6% from the respondents reported 'combined agree', 0.8% reported 'combined disagree', 2.5% reported 'neutral', and 3% skipped this question.

Section II: The FYE Program:

Questions in this section are divided into 4 groups:

I: AUC community:

Welcomed me to the AUC community:

The percentage distribution for all students is: 87.7 % 'combined agree', 0.8% 'combined disagree', 7.6% 'neutral', 3.8% skipped this question.

Gave me opportunities to learn about AUC's mission:

The percentage distribution for all students is: 83.9 % 'combined agree', 0.8% 'combined disagree', 12.7% 'neutral', 2.5% skipped this question.

Helped me understand the meaning of a liberal arts education:

The percentage distribution for all students is: 75.4% % 'combined agree', 3.4% 'combined disagree', 16.5% 'neutral', 4.7% skipped this question.

II: Awareness of AUC Policies, Resources and Services:

Made me aware of the different majors at AUC:

The percentage distribution for all students is: 80.9% 'combined agree', 3.4% 'combined disagree', 11.9% 'neutral', 3.8%. skipped this question.

Helped me understand the core curriculum:

The percentage distribution for all students is: 68.6 % 'combined agree', 6.8% 'combined disagree', 21.2% 'neutral', 3.4% skipped this question.

Taught me how to set academic & career goals and make decisions about my major:

The percentage distribution for all students is: 71.6 % 'combined agree', 4.2% 'combined disagree', 19.9% 'neutral', 4.2% skipped this question.

Made me aware of college customs and policies

The percentage distribution for all students is: 86.4% % 'combined agree', no one reported neither 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree', 10.6% 'neutral', 3% skipped this question.

Introduced me to campus resources and services:

The percentage distribution for all students is: 75.8% % 'combined agree', 2.5% 'combined disagree', 18.2% 'neutral', 3.4% skipped this question.

Made me aware of the extracurricular activities on campus:

The percentage distribution for all students is: 78% 'combined agree', 1.3% 'combined disagree', 16.1% 'neutral', 4.7% skipped this question.

Helped familiarize me with the AUC campus:

The percentage distribution for all students is: 75.8 % 'combined agree', 2.5% 'combined disagree', 13.6% 'neutral', 8.1% skipped this question.

Helped me understand university policies on plagiarism & academic integrity:

The percentage distribution for all students is: 85.1 % 'combined agree', no one reported neither 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree', 7.2% 'neutral', 7.6% skipped this question.

III: Skills & Activities:

Taught me time management skills:

The percentage distribution for all students is: 69.5 % 'combined agree', 4.7% 'combined disagree', 15.7% 'neutral', 10.2% skipped this question.

Helped me find opportunities to get involved in student activities at AUC:

The percentage distribution for all students is: 71.6% 'combined agree', 1.3% 'combined disagree', 16.9% 'neutral', 10.2% skipped this question.

Gave me opportunities to meet other students and make friends:

The percentage distribution for all students is: 85.6 % 'combined agree', no one reported neither 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree', 8.5% 'neutral', 5.9% skipped this question.

Gave me opportunities to ask questions:

The percentage distribution for all students is: 80.5 % 'combined agree', no one reported neither 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree', 12.3% 'neutral', 7.2% skipped this question.

IV: Transition to AUC:

Helped me feel like I am a part of the AUC community:

The percentage distribution for all students is: 81.4% 'combined agree', no one reported neither 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree', 12.7% 'neutral', 5.9% skipped this question.

Assisted me in my transition to the university:

The percentage distribution for all students is: 66.5 % 'combined agree', 2.1% 'combined disagree', 20.8% 'neutral', 10.6% skipped this question.

Helped me feel prepared to be successful as a student at AUC:

The percentage distribution for all students is: 76.7 % 'combined agree', no one reported neither 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree', 15.7% 'neutral', 7.6% skipped this question.

Appendices Descriptive Analysis

Section I: General Survey Questions

Survey items:

- | | |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| GQ.1 | The registration process was clear and well organized |
| GQ.2 | The schedule of events was informative and helpful |
| GQ.3 | I found the opening ceremony interesting and informative |
| GQ.4 | I enjoyed the social events and found them well organized and helpful |
| GQ.5 | The classrooms and other facilities were appropriate for our needs |
| GQ.6 | The class teacher was organized, helpful and communicated effectively |
| GQ.7 | The student leader was organized, helpful and communicated effectively |

Survey scale:

(5=Strongly Agree, 4=Agree, 3=Neutral, 2=Disagree, 1=Strongly Disagree)

Means

Table A:

<i>Item</i>	Registration Process	Events Schedule	Opening ceremony	Social events	Classrooms and other facilities	Class teacher	Student leader
<i>Mean</i>	4.0	4.3	3.6	4.1	4.5	4.8	4.8

Item Distribution:

Figure A

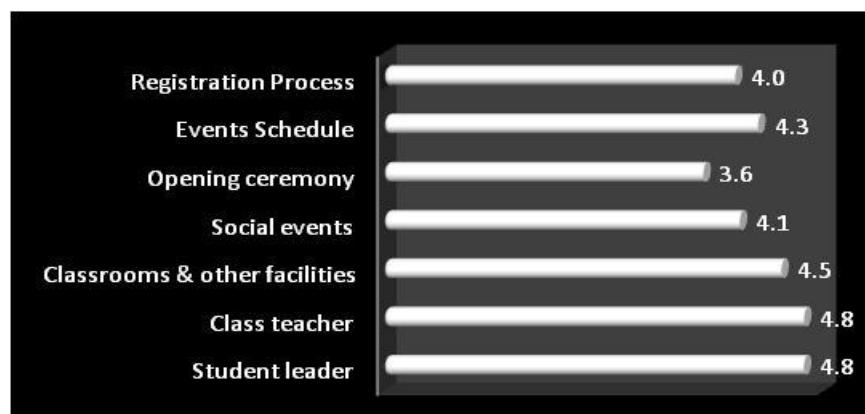


Table 1A

GQ.1: The registration process was clear and well organized	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	168	71.2%
Combined Disagree	23	9.7%
Neutral	22	9.3%
Missing	23	9.7%
Total	236	100.0%

Figure 1A

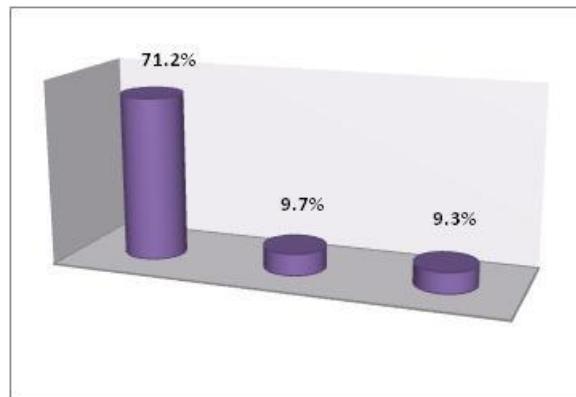


Table 2A

GQ.2: The schedule of events was informative and helpful	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	191	80.9%
Combined Disagree	4	1.7%
Neutral	31	13.1%
Missing	10	4.2%
Total	236	100.0%

Figure 2A

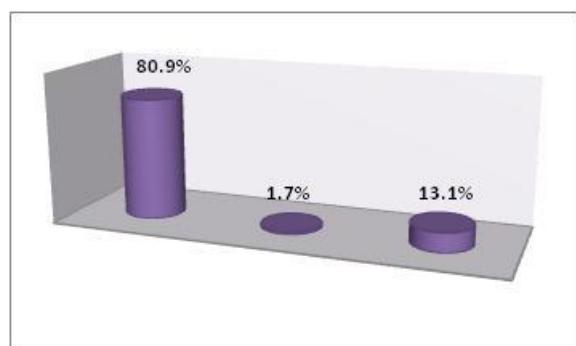


Table 3A

GQ.3: I found the opening ceremony interesting and informative	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	135	57.2%
Combined Disagree	23	9.7%
Neutral	69	29.2%
Missing	9	3.8%
Total	236	100.0%

Figure 3A

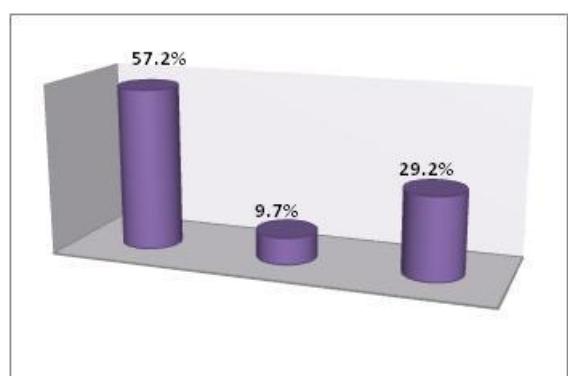


Table 4A

GQ.4: I enjoyed the social events and found them well organized and helpful	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	174	73.7%
Combined Disagree	5	2.1%
Neutral	47	19.9%
Missing	10	4.2%
Total	236	100.0%

Figure 4A

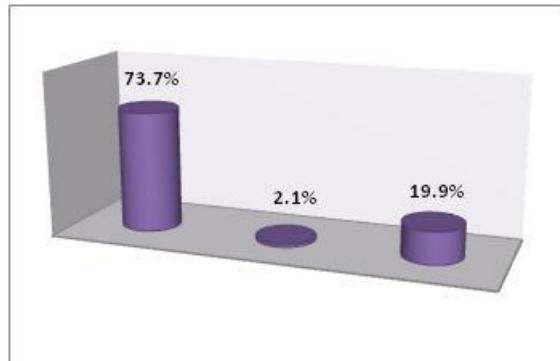


Table 5A

GQ.5: The classrooms and other facilities were appropriate for our needs	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	215	91.1%
Neutral	11	4.7%
Missing	10	4.2%
Total	236	100.0%

Figure 5A

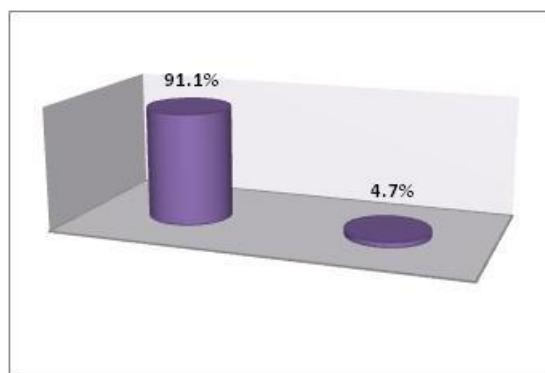


Table 6A

GQ.6: The class teacher was organized, helpful and communicated effectively	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	222	94.1%
Neutral	5	2.1%
Missing	9	3.8%
Total	236	100.0%

Figure 6A

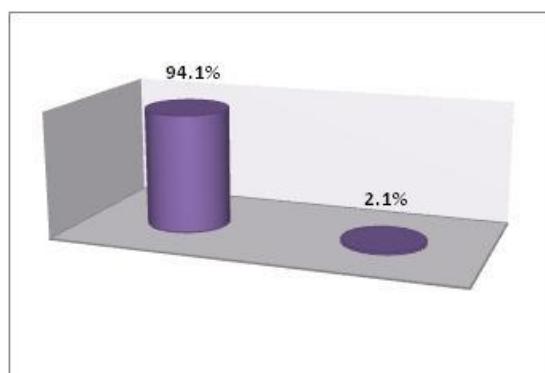
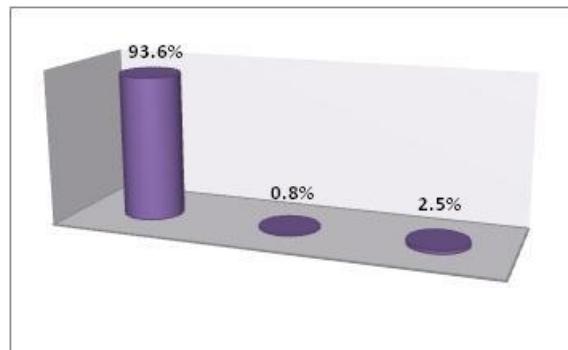


Table 7A

GQ.7: The student leader was organized, helpful and communicated effectively	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	221	93.6%
Combined Disagree	2	0.8%
Neutral	6	2.5%
Missing	7	3.0%
Total	236	100.0%

Figure 7A



Section II: First Year Experience Program

Survey Questions:

- PQ1. Welcomed me to the AUC community.
PQ2. Gave me opportunities to learn about AUC's mission.
PQ3. Helped me understand the meaning of a liberal arts education.
PQ4. Made me aware of the different majors at AUC.
PQ5. Helped me understand the core curriculum.
PQ6. Taught me how to set academic and career goals and make decisions about my major.
PQ7. Made me aware of college customs and policies.
PQ8. Introduced me to campus resources and services.
PQ9. Made me aware of the extra-curricular activities on campus.
PQ10. Helped familiarize me with the AUC campus.
PQ11. Helped me understand university policies on plagiarism & academic integrity.
PQ12. Taught me time management skills.
PQ13. Helped me find opportunities to get involved in student activities at AUC.
PQ14. Gave me opportunities to meet other students and make friends.
PQ15. Gave me opportunities to ask questions.
PQ16. Helped me feel like I am a part of the AUC community.
PQ17. Assisted me in my transition to the university.
PQ18. Helped me feel prepared to be successful as a student at AUC.

Survey scale:

(5=Strongly Agree, 4=Agree, 3=Neutral, 2=Disagree, 1=Strongly Disagree)

Table B

Item	PQ1	PQ2	PQ3	PQ4	PQ5	PQ6	PQ7	PQ8	PQ9
Mean	4.4	4.2	4.1	4.2	3.9	4.0	4.3	4.1	4.2

Item	PQ10	PQ11	PQ12	PQ13	PQ14	PQ15	PQ16	PQ17	PQ18
Mean	4.1	4.4	4.0	4.2	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.0	4.2

Item Distribution:

Figure B

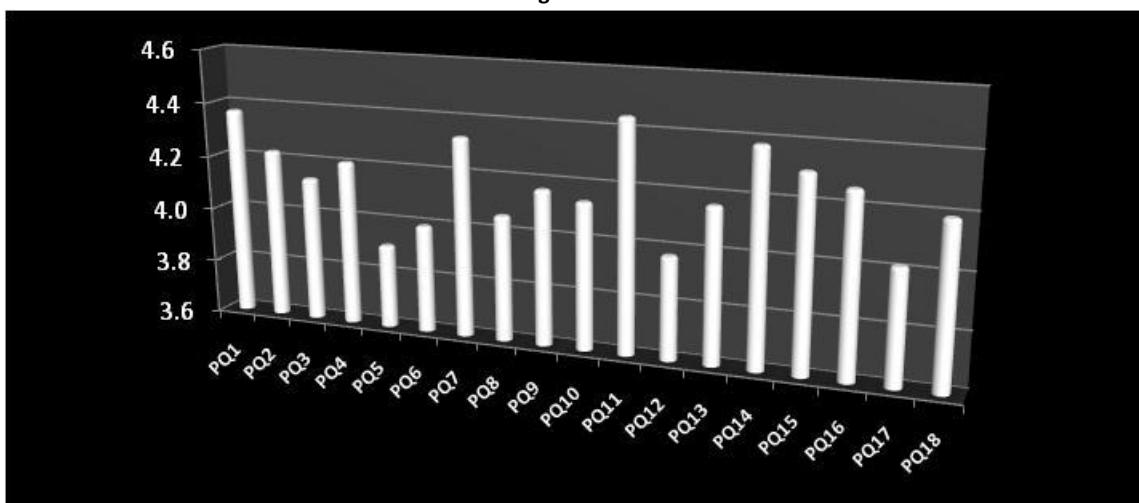


Table1B

PQ1: Welcomed me to the AUC community	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	207	87.7%
Combined Disagree	2	0.8%
Neutral	18	7.6%
Missing	9	3.8%
Total	236	100.0%

Figure1B

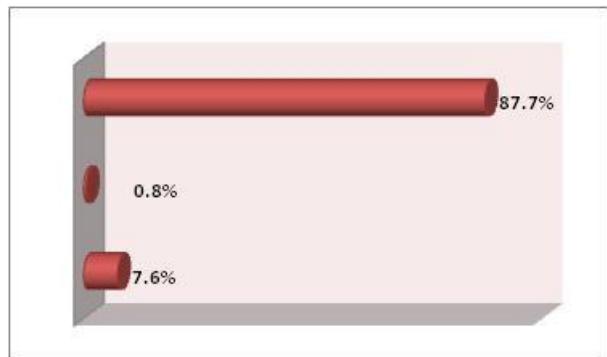


Table2B

PQ2: Gave me opportunities to learn about AUC's mission	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	198	83.9%
Combined Disagree	2	0.8%
Neutral	30	12.7%
Missing	6	2.5%
Total	236	100.0%

Figure2B



Table3B

PQ3: Helped me understand the meaning of a liberal arts education	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	178	75.4%
Combined Disagree	8	3.4%
Neutral	39	16.5%
Missing	11	4.7%
Total	236	100.0%

Figure 3B

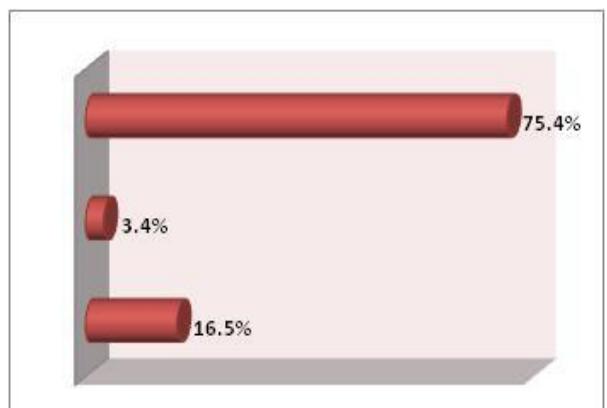
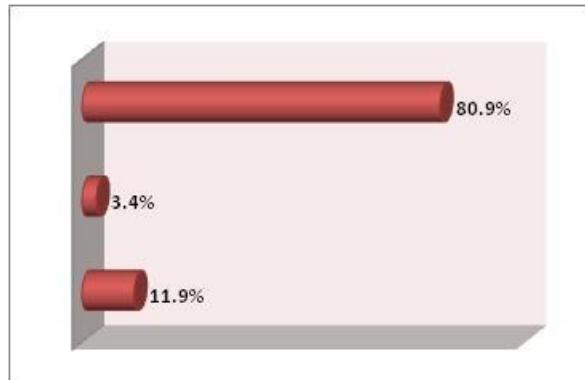
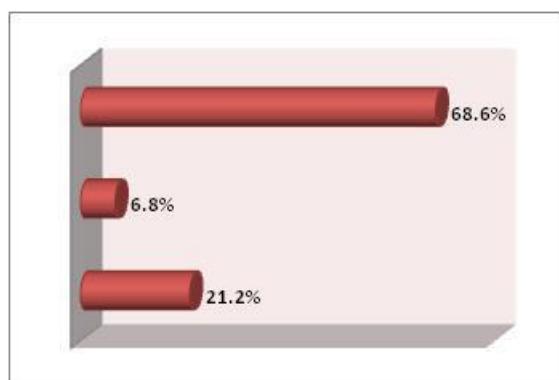


Table4B

PQ4: Made me aware of the different majors at AUC	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	191	80.9%
Combined Disagree	8	3.4%
Neutral	28	11.9%
Missing	9	3.8%
Total	236	100.0%

Figure4B**Table5B**

PQ5: Helped me understand the core curriculum	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	162	68.6%
Combined Disagree	16	6.8%
Neutral	50	21.2%
Missing	8	3.4%
Total	236	100.0%

Figure5B**Table6B**

PQ6: Taught me how to set academic and career goals and make decisions about my major	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	169	71.6%
Combined Disagree	10	4.2%
Neutral	47	19.9%
Missing	10	4.2%
Total	236	100.0%

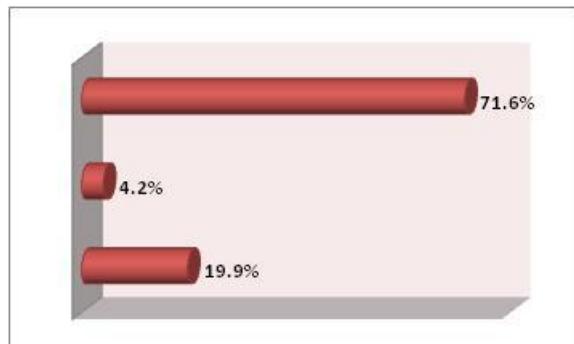
Figure6B

Table7B

PQ7: Made me aware of college customs and policies	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	204	86.4%
Neutral	25	10.6%
Missing	7	3.0%
Total	236	100.0%

Figure7B

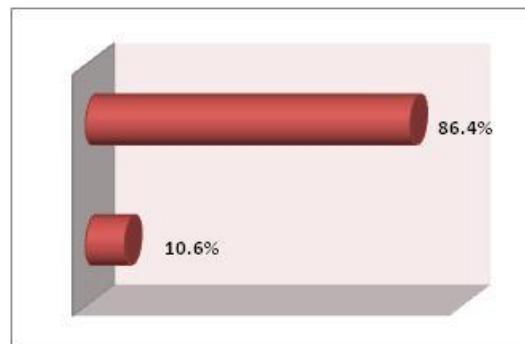


Table8B

PQ8: Introduced me to campus resources and services	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	179	75.8%
Combined Disagree	6	2.5%
Neutral	43	18.2%
Missing	8	3.4%
Total	236	100.0%

Figure8B

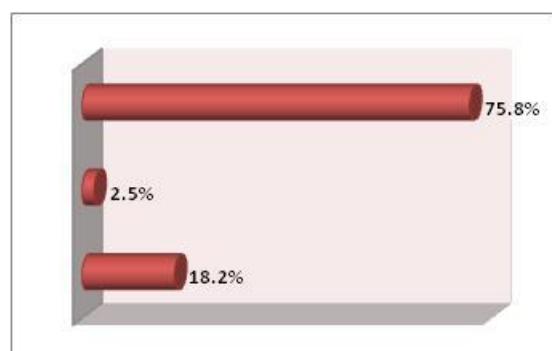


Table9B

PQ9: Made me aware of the extra-curricular activities on campus	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	184	78.0%
Combined Disagree	3	1.3%
Neutral	38	16.1%
Missing	11	4.7%
Total	236	100.0%

Figure9B

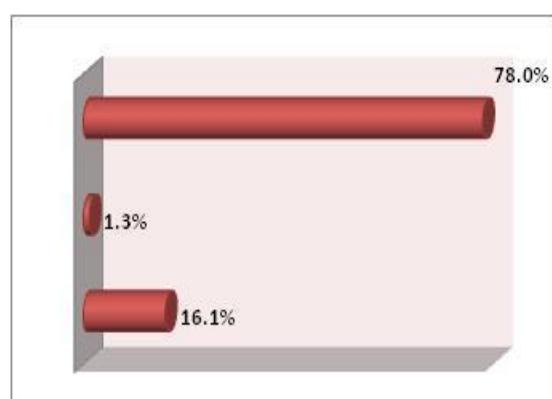


Table10B

PQ10: Helped familiarize me with the AUC campus	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	179	75.8%
Combined Disagree	6	2.5%
Neutral	32	13.6%
Missing	19	8.1%
Total	236	100.0%

Figure10B

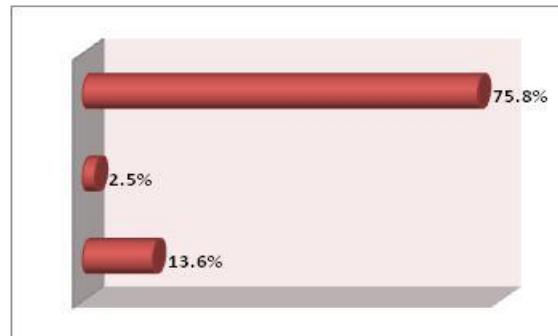


Table11B

PQ11: Helped me understand university policies on plagiarism & academic integrity	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	201	85.1%
Neutral	17	7.2%
Missing	18	7.6%
Total	236	100.0%

Figure11B

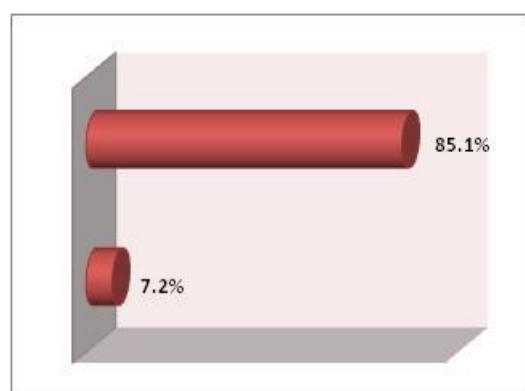


Table12B

PQ12: Taught me time management skills	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	164	69.5%
Combined Disagree	11	4.7%
Neutral	37	15.7%
Missing	24	10.2%
Total	236	100.0%

Figure12B

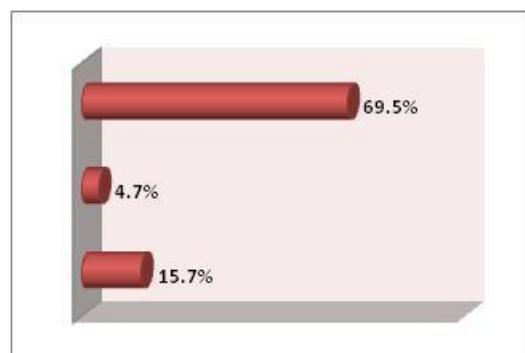


Table13B

PQ13: Helped me find opportunities to get involved in student activities at AUC	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	169	71.6%
Combined Disagree	3	1.3%
Neutral	40	16.9%
Missing	24	10.2%
Total	236	100.0%

Figure13B

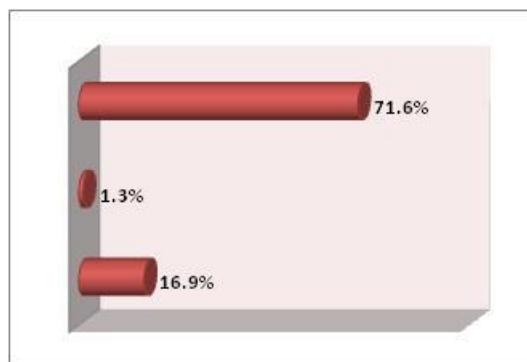


Table14B

PQ14: Gave me opportunities to meet other students and make friends	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	202	85.6%
Neutral	20	8.5%
Missing	14	5.9%
Total	236	100.0%

Figure14B

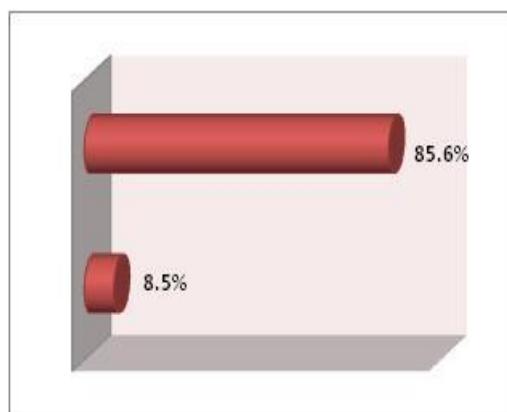


Table15B

PQ15: Gave me opportunities to ask questions	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	190	80.5%
Neutral	29	12.3%
Missing	17	7.2%
Total	236	100.0%

Figure15B

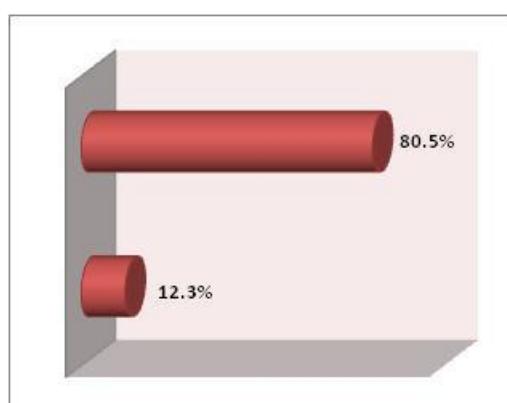


Table16B

PQ16: Helped me feel like I am a part of the AUC community	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	192	81.4%
Neutral	30	12.7%
Missing	14	5.9%
Total	236	100.0%

Figure16B

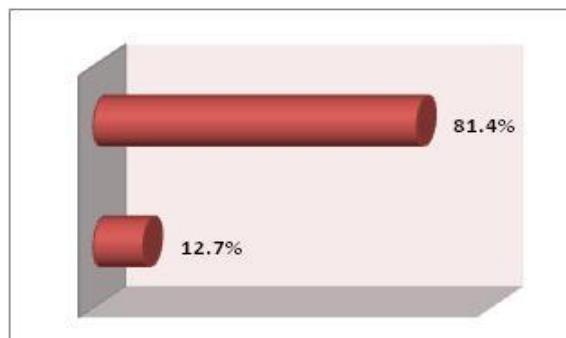


Table17B

PQ17: Assisted me in my transition to the university	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	157	66.5%
Combined Disagree	5	2.1%
Neutral	49	20.8%
Missing	25	10.6%
Total	236	100.0%

Figure17B

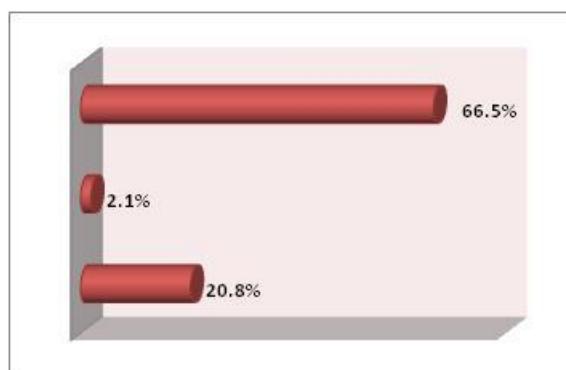
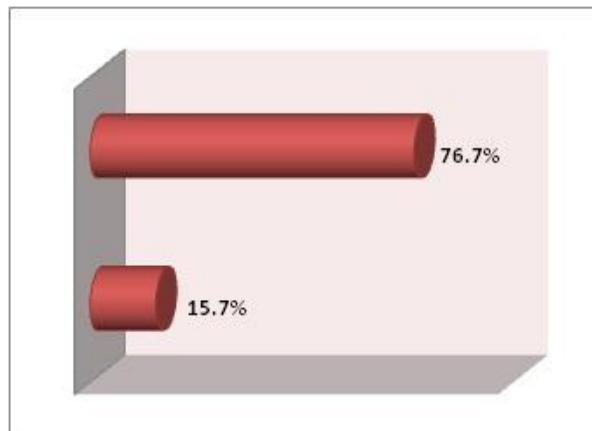


Table18B

PQ18: Helped me feel prepared to be successful as a student at AUC	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	181	76.7%
Neutral	37	15.7%
Missing	18	7.6%
Total	236	100.0%

Figure18B



Analysis for the “Neutral” item and compare it with the Neutral percentage during Fall 2010:

Table 1:1:1 shows the items where students reported a high neutral percentage. The survey items were General questions related to academic and career goal, core curriculum, and time management, and questions related to the FYE program activities.

Here we site literature regarding survey neutral items that suggest students may be evasive or indifferent when they report neutral (1).

Table 1:1:1

FYE Survey Questions	Neutral Percentage Spring 2011	Neutral Percentage Fall 2010
The schedule of events was informative and helpful	13.1%	18.0%
I found the opening ceremony interesting and informative	29.2%	24.4%
I enjoyed the social events and found them well organized and helpful	19.9%	20.2%
Gave me opportunities to learn about AUC's mission	12.7%*	9.6%
Helped me understand the meaning of a liberal arts education.	16.5%	20.0%
Made me aware of the different majors at AUC.	11.9%	16.9%
Helped me understand the core curriculum.	21.2%*	20.0%
Taught me how to set academic and career goals and make decisions about my major	19.9%	24.7%
Introduced me to campus resources and services	18.2%*	11.9%
Made me aware of the extra-curricular activities on campus	16.1%*	9.8%
Helped familiarize me with the AUC campus	13.1%*	9.9%
Taught me time management skills	15.7%*	21.3%
Helped me find opportunities to get involved in students activities at AUC	16.9%*	11.4%
Gave me opportunities to ask questions	12.3%	13.5%
Helped me feel like I am a part of the AUC community	12.7%	13.0%
Assisted me in my transition to the university	20.8%*	15.3%
Helped me feel prepared to be successful as a student at AUC	15.7%*	14.3%

(1) Note: "Baumgartner and Steenkamp (2001) proposed respondents might choose a middle category such as neutral "due to evasiveness . . . indecision . . . or indifference" (p. 145). None of these reasons would indicate a truly middle position and might be more equivalent to unsure".

References: Baumgartner, H., & Steenkamp, JB.

E. M. (2001). Response styles in marketing research: A cross national investigation. *Journal of Marketing Research*, 38, 143-156.

*Percentage increased in the Spring 2011 comparing with the Fall 2010

Section III: Comments

Methodology: The open ended questions were analyzed using the word count function in MS Word. The words that appear most frequently were aggregated and then enumerated as dominant themes.

Dominant theme: Thank you.

- Thank you
- Thank you for the help in transition!
- Thanks, it was awesome.

Dominant theme: Peer leaders & Professors

- Norhen Ali best FYE leader ever. Dr. Ashraf Abdel Bar best teacher in the world.
- I enjoyed the FYE program, and our group leader "Norhen" was really helpful.
- The student leader was very friendly and also he helped me a lot to know the campus.
- The peer leader was really helpful and helped us a lot during the FYE.
- The team leader Norhen, was really helpful & friendly as well as the doctor Ashraf Abd El Bar.
- I think that the FYE is helpful for me for my first semester in AUC with the help of the organizations of the peer leader and the class teacher.
- Class teacher and student leader did a really good job!
- Much thanks to the professor & peer leader.
- Team leader and teacher were very helpful and entertaining
- The group leader, Norhen was extremely responsible & helpful for each and every one in the group. The professor, Dr. Ashraf, was sociable enough to eliminate the stranger feelings I had once I enrolled to AUC.
- Norhen Ali is a great peer leader. Couldn't have asked for anyone better. Dr. Ashraf Abdel Bar was a good FYE teacher, he could relate to us with his own ways. Kept the discussion going. He talks too much about himself though.
- Class teacher and student leader were very helpful.
- The professor , Nagwa El Qassabgy was great. Also Islam El Banna was very helpful and friendly.

Dominant theme: Long & Boring, and exhausting

- Too much talking in classes, and classes were kind of long.
- The doctor is really talkative, which was bad.
- I didn't like that there is no specific timing for breaks.
- The point that I really dislike is that its very exhausting.
- Day for parents is too long.
- As a second semester student, I find most FYE pointless & useless. All the lectures (in Bassily Hall) were really boring and not helpful at all.

Dominant theme: Informative program

- I liked the idea of FYE, which is very informative and helpful.
- I found the FYE program very useful and informative.

Dominant theme: Helpful program

- I enjoyed the games played at the interactive class, it made me open my eyes about some important negative aspects of my personality.
- I liked FYE, because it is really helpful & I liked the idea of gathering the booths in one area. But FYE booth was not there.
- If I wrote any additional comments, this wouldn't be AUC. This university is simply PERFECT.
- The FYE program is very useful especially in decision making in my major. The FYE program is very helpful, as it has taught me to understand and be aware of the different majors in AUC. The FYE program has also taught me on how to manage my time wisely, and put that into practice in my school work and stay at AUC.
- The FYE was very helpful.

Dominant theme: Suggestions

- Trying Making registration process easier.
- It would have been better if we had more time knowing one another. It should be done once a month over the semester for being in touch.
- Less gaps, more entertainment, time to eat/coffee.
- Breaks should be narrowed down so that it's not too long, and it shouldn't include any work since its' supposed to be a welcoming, ex: the e-portfolio.
- I think admission should be more helpful and friendly.
- Try to make each day or class with different groups, meaning that each one would have an opportunity to meet more people, peer leaders and teachers.
- Hope to make FYE as optional next years.

Dominant theme: General

- Both our prof. Ahsraf and our leader Norhen Ali Art was not found on the Major booths.
- FYE for 2nd semester students=Bad idea. Some messages that should be written are just said (and vice versa).
- I enjoyed the holistic experience. I am a second semester student but FYE did in fact help.
- Good experience.
- Great team!
- I love AUC.
- I attended my FYE program in my second semester, so I discovered most of the issues alone in my first semester.
- Note on the extra curricular activities: present other options besides the community services activities; like team sports and other media (music, arts,..)
- Good