

Student Success and Graduation Initiative
San Francisco State University
Bi-Monthly Report

March/April, 2013

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What did your team complete this month and how will it help?

1. A Student Success Day is being planned for May 7th from 11:00-noon on the campus quad. It is being planned entirely by students in a Recreation, Parks, and Tourism class on Recreation Programming. The event will include tabling campus resources (e.g., tutoring, health and psychological counseling, academic advising), stress reduction activities that build community (e.g., Dunk a Dr., physical edutainment, quad/library office hours), and academic skills workshops (e.g., studying techniques, library research). This activity should help students be better prepared for final exams.
2. Residential Life is restructuring their living/learning communities and will implement them in fall 2013. This will provide students with the opportunity for better connections between curricular and co-curricular activities.
3. The FYE Student Learning Outcomes have been approved by the Baccalaureate Requirements Committee and are being forwarded to the Academic Senate for endorsement. It is well documented that a First Year Experience improves retention and graduate rates, particularly for traditionally underrepresented students.
4. We are in the final stages of piloting a second Early Alert system, this one utilizing our own course management system, iLearn. Early anecdotal data indicate it is working better than utilizing Hobson's.
5. The Faculty Ambassadors' Program continues as a part of New Student Orientation for summer 2013. We currently have 10 ambassadors participating, representing all of the colleges offering undergraduate majors. Faculty Ambassadors will play an integral role at orientation this summer by helping to advise new freshmen and transfer students and to interact with family members and guests. This program improves advising to freshmen by including more faculty at an early stage.

6. As part of the Student Success and Graduation Initiative, efforts are being made by the Undergraduate Advising Center to increase information sharing, thus improving campus-wide advising. During the 2012-2013 academic year, we have held three campus-wide Brown Bag Advisor meetings. On April 12, 2013, the second of these gatherings took place. At this meeting, advisors from various offices such as the Office of International Programs, the Educational Opportunity Program, the Student Involvement and Career Center, Financial Aid, the College of Business Student Resource Center, Student Outreach, and the Undergraduate Advising Center convened to discuss issues related to student advising.
7. The Undergraduate Advising Center is offering two drop-in advising events targeted to meet the needs of first-year students. During the fall 2012 semester this program was successful, serving over 400 freshmen. *Freshmen Fridays* for spring 2013 were held on April 19th and 26th. *Freshmen Fridays* is a collaborative advising event with advisors from the Undergraduate Advising Center, the Educational Opportunity Program, the Office of International Programs, the Student Involvement and Career Center, the GatorAiders (peer advisors), and the various college-based resource centers coming together to provide individual drop-in advising to first-year students. By providing advising at high-traffic student centered locations on campus, the events reach out to a greater number of students and increase awareness about the importance of advising and careful academic planning. The main goals of *Freshmen Fridays* are to facilitate graduation by assisting freshmen to choose appropriate classes for meeting general education and major/pre-major requirements and to increase students' awareness of campus advising resources.
8. The campus is adopting a culture of "student success." There are many activities taking place such as workshops for faculty on High Impact Practices (offered by CTFD), and workshops for students on time management, study skills, etc. (offered by counseling services).
9. The 2013 Academic Institutional Research annual Data Book was completed and distributed to staff managers, faculty, chairs, and administrators throughout the campus. The data book contains data related to graduation, retention, enrollment, faculty and staff composition, financial aid, and GPA comparisons. It serves as a reminder to the campus community of some of the data we use to measure student success.
10. Academic Institutional Research completed a study of probation. Some of the findings include: part-time students are significantly more likely to be placed on probation, URM students are more likely to be on probation than non-URMs, and the largest number of students on probation or subject to disqualification dropped out between Term 2 and 3. See attachment for details. Responding to this data, we are sending warning messages to students who have a low GPA for one term to encourage them to improve so they will not be put on probation. Also, the

College of Science and Engineering is considering mandatory advising for students with a low term GPA.

11. The Capacity Task Force is continuing its work on determining departmental capacity as a part of impact analysis. This effort is aimed at making sure students can move through their majors in a timely manner.

What we hope to accomplish in the next two months.

1. We will continue to work on the capacity analysis.
2. We will continue assessment of our academic success-coaching program, Beyond 12, as well as the Early Warning pilot.
3. We will pilot a different Early Alert system. This one will be integrated into our Common Management System (iLearn), so should be more user friendly for faculty to complete.
4. Undergraduate Studies will continue working with Academic Resources to determine the number of seats needed in every area of GE, plus the overlays, in order to successfully implement the new General Education curriculum. We are making excellent progress in the course approval process. There are fewer university-wide units required in the new curriculum, which should reduce the time to graduation.
5. We will hold the Student Success Day on May 7th.
6. In May, Faculty Ambassadors will participate in a pre-orientation training coordinated by the Undergraduate Advising Center. Throughout June and July, the ambassadors will assist with the 33 orientation dates, serving an estimated 11,000 new students, family members, and guests.