

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

May/June 2012

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

1. We will implement an EOP Summer Bridge program that is twice as large as it has been in recent years. EOP Summer Bridge has expanded from 50 students to 105 students for Summer 2012. Program planning is underway and students will arrive on campus during the second week of July for the 5-week program. By expanding EOP Summer Bridge, which has been very successful in retaining and graduating students at a higher rate than the general population, particularly first-generation, underrepresented minorities, we anticipate that we will be able to further close our achievement gap.
2. We will train faculty advisors for orientation and include them in the 32 freshmen and transfer orientation sessions that are planned during the summer. These “faculty ambassadors” will then share their experiences with faculty in their colleges.
3. Jo Volkert and Linda Buckley represented SF State at the Washington, D.C. Ed Trust conference and participated in two days of workshops on improving retention and graduation rates. They collaborated with representatives from universities across the country. Linda and Jo returned with at least 15 ideas about specific steps that can be implemented to continue our positive movement toward closing the graduation achievement gap. (see #2 below for two ideas that we will be implementing in the next couple of months)
4. The SSGI team will review the 2009 SSGI proposal and evaluate the activities that have been completed, determining which have been successful, which have not been successful, and what remains to be done. The team will use this analysis to create a briefing statement for the new President, which will be included in the Academic Affairs document being prepared by the Provost.
5. We will schedule a vendor of an Early Alert system (Hobsons) to present a demo to the SSGI task force. A subset of the SSGI Task Force met with representatives from Hobsons on May 23. A follow-up meeting occurred on June 12<sup>th</sup> to identify a plan for piloting an Early Warning System with selected faculty members who indicate an interest in participating. By starting with faculty who are committed to the project, we will be able to get a more realistic picture of how much it helps with improving retention, and ultimately graduation rates.

### **What we hope to accomplish in the next two months.**

1. The banners promoting student success that have been produced will be displayed in buildings across campus prior to the beginning for the Fall 2012 semester.
2. Three immediate ideas emanating from the Ed Trust Conference that are planned for July/August are:
  - Close review of academic records of the Fall 2006 FTF cohort who applied for graduation but were denied. Reviewers will look for students whose deficiencies might be easily corrected with course substitutions or other immediate interventions so the students can still graduate in Spring or Summer 2012. This should improve the graduation rate for the Fall 2006 FTF cohort.
  - Review of the Fall 2007 FTF cohort who have earned at least 90 units. Develop a plan to give incentives to students who plan to graduate in Spring or Summer 2013 if they “pledge” to enroll in the classes they identify on a Degree Completion Plan. Students may be given incentives of first-day priority registration, reduced fee to apply for graduation and/or an option of applying to graduate a semester earlier than other students, allowing them to have an evaluation prior to registering for their final semester.
  - The SSGI Steering Committee will be broken down into sub-groups focusing on particular aspects of the Graduation Initiative. Two groups planned initially are a data review group and a group focusing on High Impact Practices (HIPs).
3. 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. There are fewer university wide units required in the new curriculum, which should reduce the time to graduation.
4. We will continue assessment of our coaching program, Beyond 12. Student Affairs personnel organized three focus groups and have also implemented a series of surveys to evaluate the effectiveness of this program. The data will help us assess how well this pilot program is working to retain students.
5. As we are sure is true of all CSUs, we have continued to spend a great deal of time on the implementation of Early Start. It is the hope that both the English and Math Early Start courses will facilitate students completing remediation within their first year.
6. Our new Director of IR will begin on July 23, 2012.

7. Institutional Research will conduct an attrition study to determine patterns among drop-outs, as well as an analysis of the 2009 freshmen cohort of traditionally underrepresented students to identify any who may benefit from additional support.
8. The SSGI task force will work with the Academic Senate Student Affairs Committee to plan a fall forum on pedagogy and student success, which will include panel discussions of students, faculty and staff. This forum is intended to further raise awareness of the intrinsic relationship between pedagogy (e.g. HIPs) and student success.