

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

November/December 2013

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

1. We have continued the work on the Persistence Study. The IRB is complete, and we have tested the interview questions.
2. The revision to the Milestone Study is in progress.
3. We have continued the strategic planning work on the Maximizing Student Success Theme by interviewing a number of campus constituency groups, including the SSGI Steering Committee, the Business and Finance Council, the Science Council, and the Provost's Council. We have also sent a survey regarding student success to all residents of dormitories.
4. The President and the Provost have agreed to move forward in beginning the plans to develop a Student Success Fee proposal. The Provost appointed a Student Success Fee Committee, which has met three times, and we are beginning to research how other campuses have gained approval on a fee increase. If successful, we plan for the resources to be used for advising, tutoring, peer mentoring, career services and other functions that lead to student success.
5. The total graduation rate for the 2007 cohort of first-time, full-time freshmen fell to 45.3%. We were not surprised since our tracking of this cohort indicated that persistence has been weak. This cohort was hit particularly hard during the worst budget cut years when there were many bottlenecks at the GE level. Attached please find the comparison of the 2006 and 2007 data disaggregated by ethnicity. Also attached is a graph showing our campus progress on 6-year graduation rates since the beginning of the SSGI project. It is interesting to note that although the total 6 year rates dropped, the achievement gap between URM and non-URM students has shrunk to only 2%. Also, the number of URMs graduating in 6 years has grown from 506 to 863, an increase of 70.6%.

6. A group in Academic Affairs has begun the work on implementing the scale up of the Metro Academy to seven additional cohorts in Fall 2014.
7. A collaborative team from Student Affairs and Undergraduate Advising is developing a pilot for a 2-day freshman orientation for Fall 2014. The hope is that a longer orientation will give new students greater exposure to opportunities for developing stronger connections on campus leading to greater retention rates. Based on what is learned this year, additional 2 day orientation sessions can be added to give more students exposure to the enhanced orientation experience.

What we hope to accomplish in the next two months.

1. We will continue work on the Persistence Study.
2. We will continue to work on the strategic planning theme on Student Success.
3. We will continue work on the revision of the Milestone Study.
4. We will continue work on the Student Success Fee.
5. We will continue to work on scaling up the Metro Academies.
6. We will continue to work on the 2-day freshman orientation pilot.