Graduation Initiative  
Monthly Reporting Form  
February 2010

Campus: East Bay

Team Leader: Susan Opp

1. What did your team commit to completing during this month? (What did you promise?)

- Train faculty advisors in General Education – status: initiated and ongoing
- Provide information on availability of advising services for low SES and first generation college students – status: to be completed in March
- Reduction in length of course add period – status: completed
- Improve communication regarding advising to faculty and staff – status: completed
- Retention study analysis – status: completed
- Assessment of effectiveness of interventions – status: ongoing

2. What did you do and how will it help?

Improved Advising: Faculty advisors received training about our General Education program through meetings held by the Director of General Education with academic departments. This is part of an ongoing effort to improve faculty advising services so that students receive timely and accurate information. Advising information was also provided in a campus-wide meeting of the University Undergraduate Advising Council (faculty and staff). We updated advisors on: impaction of our Business BA, Academic Senate policy changes affecting registration, new policies on “super seniors”, a PeopleSoft module that will allow advisors to add electronic notes, policy on grade changes, a program for URM students called the McNair Scholars Program, and planned summer course offerings. UUAC meetings help to ensure that students are getting consistent and timely information from advisors across campus. We finalized our analysis of a retention study (a survey of students who stopped out). The results indicated that most students who left without finishing their degree were in good academic standing, entered as transfer students, had been at East Bay 2 years or less, and did not receive financial aid. Students were more likely to leave if the courses they needed were not available during a time when needed, when they had financial problems (including high costs of books, tuition/fees) or when they had family problems. This indicated that we need to focus more efforts on providing student support services and greater availability of courses, if possible.

Enhanced Access and Success: The Academic Senate passed a policy to reduce the length of time in which students will be able to add courses starting in Fall 2010. This will improve student success in courses by ensuring they do not add courses without instructor approval after the first week of the quarter, and will improve access by allowing one extra day to add (with permission) after the last day of the drop period.

Incomplete: Data will be gathered in March regarding advising services and status of outreach services for first-generation and low SES college students and evaluated in spring quarter.

3. What will you accomplish next month?

- First-time freshmen required to declare major by end of freshman year
- Move to new Student Services Building (postponed to July)
- Develop and expand pilot program for freshman seminar peer mentors
- Programming for “block” enrollment of freshman courses
- Develop annual schedules for cross-disciplinary programs