Graduation Initiative
Monthly Reporting Form
April/May 2010

Campus: East Bay

Team Leader: Susan Opp

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

- Invite second-stage graduation rate proposals for stimulus funds and begin final evaluations for funding with the key evaluation criteria being potential to improve graduation rates.
- Examine academic disqualification rates for freshmen to compare to previous years and determine how well interventions are working.
- Consider requesting campus-wide impaction for transfer students for 2011-12.
- Hold Welcome Day on campus for Fall 2010 admitted students and families.

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

New Initiatives:

- Fourteen graduation rate second-stage proposals were received and evaluated for receipt of stimulus funds. The topics suggested included: development of block scheduling for freshman learning communities, improved software for evaluating transfer student transcripts, online advising modules, improved degree roadmaps and annual schedules, refinements to student enrollment data, ELM online prep course development, improvements to online and gateway course tutoring, redesigns of basic writing skills curriculum as well as interventions for students who fail the UWSR, enhanced lecture capture capacity, and provision of electronic or shared textbooks. All of these proposals, which came from faculty and staff, have the potential to positively impact graduation rates if funded and completed.
- Campus-wide impaction for transfer students was approved to begin in Fall 2011. This will impact only domestic students transferring to CSUEB from outside the 9 county Bay Area and will enable us to better control transfer student enrollment numbers if needed to best serve our current students.
- The Student Success Assessment Committee (SSAC) discussed the implications of increasing numbers of international students on specialized remediation needs. The English Department is planning to offer English remediation courses specially geared to the needs of international students starting in 2010-11. These courses are expected to increase the successful transition of international students into baccalaureate level English courses, in recognition of the specialized remediation needs of international students.

Improved Advising:

- Welcome Day for Fall 2010 admits and their families was successfully held and many questions were addressed regarding registration for courses and degree requirements.
- The Academic Senate in May passed a policy document related to high unit Seniors that establishes the following: 1) Major declaration: transfer students must declare prior to second term, continuing students must declare prior to completion of 60 units, applicants to impacted majors must follow special admission policies, and students who have earned 120+ units may not change or add majors without special permission; 2) High unit seniors: will be designated as having 200+ baccalaureate units, and 90+ CSUEB units, and 70+ upper-division units; 3) high unit seniors will have degree checks prepared which will form the basis for an advising roadmap to graduation; 4) high unit seniors will be required to seek advising and to develop a roadmap to degree with an advisor or will have imposed a registration hold; 5) high unit seniors will be monitored and if found to be taking courses not in the approved degree plan will have a registration hold imposed; 6) high unit seniors who are unable to get into required courses on their own will be assisted by the chair to either register in the courses or be allowed course substitutions; 7) students may appeal any of the above actions. These policies are intended to encourage
high unit seniors to complete their degrees in a more timely manner through the combination of more intensive tracking and advising, and assistance in planning and enrollment.

- The Vice President for Student Services at Merritt College met with a contingent of advisors from CSUEB to discuss Merritt’s externally funded MAP program designed to increase the retention and success of African American male students. We are developing plans to connect the MAP students with a CSUEB African American club called the Men of Success in order to develop a pipeline for encouraging African American male students to transfer from Merritt College to complete a four year degree at CSUEB.

- Early Alert, a simple system used by faculty to notify students of their academic progress early each quarter, received no increase in usage in Spring quarter, relative to Fall and Winter quarters. Means to increase and encourage faculty usage such as email reminders were discussed in SSAC

Enhanced Access and Success:

- SSAC examined the academic disqualification rates for first-time freshman that occurred in 2009-10 compared to the last few years. We found that these DQ rates have decreased and attribute that decrease to two primary factors: intensive freshman General Studies instructor advising and interventions when freshmen begin to flounder, and fewer exception admits in Fall 2009 compared to the two previous years. Based on these results, we have renewed our commitment to having GS instructors advise freshmen and will be paying these instructors to advise during freshman orientations this summer as a first step to keeping freshmen on track.

- The McNair Scholars program held research presentations and a reception honoring their second graduating class which included a student from CSUEB (Mikel Delgado) who won first place in an undergraduate session of the CSU Student Research Competition. The McNair Scholars program is an externally funded program that has as its goal to provide assistance and encouragement and to increase the diversity of undergraduate students who go to graduate school.

3. What will you accomplish in the next two months?

- Finalize approvals of graduation rate proposals for stimulus funds and track implementation and progress of funded projects.

- Analyze summer term enrollment in courses on self-support summer (focus on courses to enable graduation of seniors and progression through bottlenecks) and plan for changes in course schedules for the remainder of 2010-11 based on these enrollments.

- Conduct transfer and freshman orientation sessions during summer.

- Develop faculty advising information wiki for presentation to faculty at a Back to the Bay session in September.

- Develop a procedure whereby Early Alert emails sent to students by faculty may also be copied to the faculty member so that they can track student responses to the emails.

- Complete a more in-depth statistical analysis of student 'stop-out' survey conducted in 2009-10 to identify significant factors influencing student decisions to stop attending CSUEB.

- Working with Student Disability Resource Center, develop plan to re-introduce faculty in fall to university accommodations available and required for students with disabilities.