Graduation Initiative
Monthly Reporting Form
August/September 2010

Campus: East Bay

Team Leader: Susan Opp

1. What did your team commit to completing during these months? (What did you promise?)

- Implementation and progress of graduation rate projects that received stimulus funds will be tracked through reports due in mid-September.
- Additional orientations for new fall students will be conducted: three for freshman, three for transfer students, and one for international students.
- Entering freshman EPT/ELM scores will be analyzed to determine the level and number of remedial math and English courses needed for 2010-11 and ensure those courses are scheduled.
- Information will be provided to returning Chairs, faculty and advisors before fall quarter starts.
- Working with Student Disability Resource Center, a plan will be developed to re-introduce faculty in fall to university accommodations that are available and required for students with disabilities.
- Student Academic Services will host EOP Welcome Day on September 18th.

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

New Initiatives:
- Twelve graduation rate proposals are currently underway as indicated in information from the first quarter progress reports:
  1. “Block” Enrollment of Freshmen: Using PeopleSoft, first time freshmen entering in Fall 2011 will be automatically scheduled into Freshmen Learning Communities for their entire freshman year, thereby guaranteeing specific enrollments in classes, ensuring that freshmen complete their basic skills as well as freshmen learning community linked classes, and allowing freshman orientation during the summer to focus more on social interaction and introduction to the University, rather than stressful registration in courses.
  2. CollegeSource Transfer Evaluation System (TES): Approximately 80 faculty and staff on campus currently have accounts to use TES to search and examine courses students are transferring from other institutions to verify or determine articulation.
  3. Degree Roadmaps and Tentative Annual Course Schedules: Associate Deans of the Colleges are working with their faculty to develop annual schedules and update degree roadmaps, to be completed by the end of fall quarter, and to develop student self-help tools for online by the end of spring quarter.
  4. On-Line Advising Modules: Freshman advisors are developing online interactive advising modules that will allow students to understand the relationships between Freshman Learning Community courses and GE/major requirements, to “chat” online with freshman advisors, and to understand the rules and requirements regarding remedial math and English courses.
  5. Refinements to MyCSUEB to Improve Self Service: Working with a consulting firm and with information from Cal Poly, we are providing improvements to the self-service portal for CSUEB applicants and current students so that messages are more understandable and information provided is more flexible and complete.
  6. iStrategy: Using the Higher Education Analytics Suite available from iStrategy, we will be able to provide to administrators and department chairs enhanced reports indicating improvements gained in key indicators specified in the campus plan for closing the graduation gap.
  7. ELM Online Preparation: A custom course is being developed using ALEKS to enable students to prepare to take and hopefully improve their performance on the ELM thereby decreasing the need for developmental coursework in math and improving time to degree.
8. WST Intervention: Faculty are working to design a “hybrid” basic writing course that will target the specific skills identified as needing work in the students’ diagnostic test results for students who scored in the bottom quartile of the EPT.

9. PLUS (Peer Led Undergraduate Study): Department chairs and faculty teaching in nine ‘gateway’ courses have been contacted to participate in the project to provide tutors for student-led study groups, and groups of newly recruited tutors received training.

10. eTutoring: CSUEB has joined the Northwest Consortium of the national eTutoring project to provide tutoring for subjects not currently provided in our tutoring center, and groups of newly recruited tutors have received training.

11. Lecture Capture Capability (East Bay Replay): Microphones have been installed in 7 additional classrooms bringing the total to 40 rooms that will have lecture capture capability, enabling students to access lecture materials and audio online via Blackboard, when the remaining installations are completed later this year.

12. Textbook Project: So far, 20 textbooks in 9 different disciplines have been purchased and more faculty are volunteering to provide copies of textbooks, all for course reserves in the library which, when combined with open source textbooks being instituted, will provide low or no-cost textbooks for students.

Improved Advising:
- An online advising tool for faculty was presented to faculty in September at the CSUEB Back to the Bay conference.
- Information on new add/drop policies and procedures was presented to chairs at the Fall Chairs Academy, to advisors at a University Undergraduate Advising Council meeting, and to faculty at the Back to the Bay conference.
- Volunteer sophomore students are working as peer mentors with freshmen in the freshman seminar courses and learning communities, both in and outside of class, to help connect freshmen with other students who have been successful, to organize study groups and workshops, and to improve communication with freshmen who are too often reticent to approach faculty for help.

Enhanced Access and Success:
- EOP restructured the five-week “Bridge” program into a year-long “Bridge” experience consisting of a summer three-week program followed by three quarters of mandatory advising, workshops, and peer mentoring.
- Student Academic Services hosted EOP Welcome Day on September 18th – which is required for all EOP incoming first-time freshmen. Attendees took the online version of the College Student Inventory which will provide EOP Counselors with a greater understanding of students’ strengths, challenges, and motivation.

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

- Entering freshman EPT/ELM scores will be analyzed to determine the level and number of remedial math and English courses needed for 2010-11 relative to the numbers needed in previous years.
- The Student Success Assessment Committee will meet to discuss implementation of new policies regarding high-unit seniors, analyses of retention and remediation rates of URM vs. non-URM students, Early Start activities, and SB1440.