Campus: East Bay

Team Leader: Susan Opp

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

- SSAC will explore a plan to enable students to register simultaneously for Summer and Fall terms to allow students to better plan enrollments.
- Having a retrievable database of student information for new majors and new transfer students so that departments can proactively contact students for advising will be explored by PEMSA and discussed in SSAC.
- Changes to the procedures by which students declare and change majors/minors/options will be discussed by SSAC to determine if a policy change should be considered by the Academic Senate.
- A team of about a dozen faculty and administrators will attend the AAC&U annual meeting in San Francisco in January and will report back to the University about potential new initiatives to be undertaken to improve student retention and graduation rates, among other topics.
- Implications of SB1440 will be discussed in SSAC.

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

New Initiatives:

- A team of 14 people attended the AAC&U annual meeting in San Francisco including: Provost, AVP of Academic Programs, Senate Chair, Curriculum and Instruction Committee Chair, and other faculty including the directors of GE, graduate programs, faculty development, assessment, and service learning. This AAC&U “team” is meeting regularly to explore new ideas and next steps regarding developing and enhancing high impact practices, assessment of educational effectiveness, service learning, global engagement, multicultural learning, etc. from this meeting.
- A project by Librarian Aline Soules, funded by Federal stimulus funds, to develop open source course materials and/or put major textbooks on reserve in the library continues to grow and gain support from faculty and students. This will help by reducing the cost of textbooks for our students.

Communication:

- A visit from the Chancellor’s Office occurred in January where we discussed and presented information about our Graduation Initiative activities. We highlighted our graduation initiative projects (funded with Federal stimulus funds), our ongoing Student Success Assessment Committee activities, and our Peer Mentor students, among other things.
- AACE Graduate Interns (3) staffed outreach and information tables across campus (outside RAW, Dining Commons, University Union, and Library) January 3-19, 2011. The interns promoted services within Academic Advising and Career Education as well as answered questions, made appropriate referrals, and, as needed, suggested students schedule appointments with them. The interns also outreached by phone and email to 105 native sophomore and juniors on academic probation and to 1,361 native sophomore students.

Improved Advising:

- SSAC discussed developing a retrievable database of student information so that departments can proactively contact students, particularly those who are new majors, for advising but we are still exploring how to operationalize this concept.
- SSAC is continuing to discuss the potential implications, which are considerable, of changes to policies and procedures regarding declarations and changes of major before suggesting changes for Academic Senate consideration. While we are interested in connecting students with faculty advisors earlier in their careers, we are concerned about impeding the ability of students to change their majors or explore new ideas.
AACE offered 4 sessions of the “Graduating on Time: Mission Possible” workshop. A live demonstration on how to read the Degree Progress Report and unofficial transcript on myCSUEB was provided.

Enhanced Access and Success:

- Continuing students will be registering for Summer and Fall 2011 classes at the same time in spring quarter. This will enable students to plan for 2 quarters of courses simultaneously to enhance their ability to progress through their coursework efficiently. In January, this change was communicated to Department Chairs at a Chairs Lunch with the Provost.
- The implications and progress of SB1440 have been and will continue to be discussed. We have finalized our evaluations of the first three Transfer Model Curricula and determined that some of our degree programs are “similar” while others are not. We do not believe the lack of similarity to some bachelor’s degrees will have negative implications for our transfer students.
- In collaboration with Student Academic Services, study tables were implemented in the Pioneer Heights Residence Hall lounge every Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday to address the areas of math, English and chemistry.
- Midterm Progress Reports were requested by all professors who have EOP students that fall under one of the following categories: First-time freshman, enrolled in remedial classes, or on academic probation. 1300 letters were sent.
- For Fall 2011, the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) has received nearly 6,000 requests for 400 spaces. The demand for EOP admissions and support services continues to be high.
- Three McNair Scholars have been admitted into Ph.D. programs for Fall 2011 (Government at University of Texas at Austin; Environmental Design at University of California at Davis; and History at University of South Carolina). Several applications are still pending.
- EXCEL implemented Blumen© (data management system) to track student contacts, assist in federal annual reports, and assess grant objectives. The software provides tools to store and analyze student academic achievement, demographic characteristics of students, and program participation rates. The database supports additional requests from Institutional Research, and other CSUEB or in-house statistical data demands.

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

- Communication with the campus community will occur regarding registration for Summer and Fall classes for continuing students through: discussion at a Administrative Assistants Breakfast meeting, discussion at a University Undergraduate Advising Council meeting, and via communiqués sent to faculty, staff and students.
- SSAC will continue to discuss changes to the policies and procedures regarding declarations and changes of majors.
- We will submit an application to participate in the AAC&U symposium on High Impact Practices in June.
- We will plan a campus-wide meeting, possibly in conjunction with a UUAC (University Undergraduate Advising Council) meeting, to present the results of the funded Graduation Initiative projects undertaken by faculty, staff and administrators. The goal will be to communicate and celebrate our wide-spread efforts to improve student access and success.
- SSAC will develop an Advising Action Plan that will indicate advising activities that do or should occur throughout a student’s tenure at CSUEB, from pre-enrollment through graduation. In this plan, we will identify actions needed, responsible parties, benchmarks of success, and timelines for activities designed to improve advising.
- SSAC will continue to discuss the implications and operationalization of SB1440.
- The Math department will offer supplemental instruction, Math 911, in the Spring term to EOP students who are having difficulty passing remedial math.
- Four McNair Scholars will present their research at two conferences (National Conference on Undergraduate Research in New York and the California Association for Behavioral Analysis in San Francisco).