Graduation Initiative
Monthly Reporting Form
March 2010

Campus: East Bay

Team Leader: Susan Opp

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

- First-time freshmen required to declare major by end of freshman year
- Develop and expand pilot program for freshman seminar peer mentors
- Programming for “block” enrollment of freshman courses
- Develop annual schedules for cross-disciplinary programs

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

New Initiative: Members of the University community were invited to apply for Federal Stimulus funds for one-time projects that would enhance graduation rates. Over 40 proposals were received in the pre-proposal stage and approximately half of the submission authors were invited to submit full proposals. Proposed projects included: improvement of transfer transcript evaluations, development of online advising services and faculty advisor training, enhancement of degree roadmaps and annual course schedules, development of “block” enrollment for freshmen, improved student enrollment data access, development of EPT/ELM preparation, enhanced tutoring, expansion of electronic lecture capture, and provision of textbooks.

Improved Advising: Freshmen who will be peer mentors for 2010-11 have been identified and enrolled in 2 unit mentoring courses. 2009-10 peer mentors will report to the campus the results of their mentoring efforts in June. All freshmen are being advised in their freshmen General Studies (frosh seminar) courses to declare a major by the end of spring quarter. Major exploration discussions led by program/department chairs are occurring with freshmen. Having freshmen declare majors will improve the ability to provide directed major advising and improve sophomore retention. A communiqué was sent to students and forwarded to an advisor listserv giving brief information about what summer courses will be offered and explaining the extra fee for self-support courses in Summer 2010. This will help students to plan courses for the summer and fill in courses they were not able to take in spring quarter. Student Academic Services/EOP had workshops on FAFSA preparation, engaged in outreach to potential students, and provided mid-term progress reports to first year, remedial and probationary students. The McNairs Program for URM undergraduates has undertaken an enhanced marketing effort to increase student awareness and interest in the program. These services will help students connect with advisors, to understand their progress and to make timely academic improvements if needed. Early Alert is active for the term to let students know their mid-quarter progress-to-date. Development of on-line advising modules is a proposal for the new initiatives funded by the Federal stimulus funds.

Enhanced Access and Success: The University participated in Super Sunday and African American/Latino Summit efforts designed to increase the numbers of under-represented students who attend and prepare to attend college. Both “block” enrollment of freshmen and development of annual course schedules are proposals that aim to be part of the new initiatives funded by Federal stimulus funds.

3. What will you accomplish next month?

- 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.