

**CSUSM Graduation Initiative
Action Plan Status Report
Year Two**

In October 2010, nearly a year after the commencement of CSU's Graduation Initiative (GI), the CSUSM Graduation Initiative Steering Committee (GISC) hosted a retreat for members of the campus community, including faculty, staff, students, alumni, and parents, to discuss the GI to date and to gather feedback for a revised action plan. A list of recommendations came out of the retreat that the GISC subsequently discussed, condensed, and incorporated into a revised campus action plan that prioritized 18 goals for the coming year and beyond. The GISC assigned one or two members from the group as the person responsible for leading and communicating activities or action steps associated with each goal and developed a matrix, available on the GI website, as a mechanism for tracking progress. This status report, organized around the 18 goals, summarizes our accomplishments in each area since last January and suggests areas for future work. The GISC will host a university town hall later in the fall term to provide an update to the campus community and to engage in a conversation about the initiative.

Early Start (Responsible Party: David Barsky)

Over the last year, CSUSM continued to offer summer programming for students requiring remediation, while developing curricula to build upon and leverage those efforts to meet the CSU Board of Trustees mandate to offer an "early start" to all first-year students needing remediation. CSUSM's Early Start curriculum was submitted by deadline to the Chancellor's Office and staff from both Student Affairs (SA) and Academic Affairs (AA) have been working together and with the Chancellor's Office to stay abreast of developments and directives and to be prepared to initiate Early Start programming in Summer 2012. *Recommended Next Steps: Charging an implementation team by the end of October 2011, led by David Barsky and Geoffrey Gilmore, and composed of additional representatives from SA, AA, Extended Learning, and Communications to ensure that all of the necessary steps are taken for implementation.*

Block Registration (Responsible Parties: David Barsky, April Grommo)

An action plan for this goal is still pending, but one necessary step—the completion of curricular roadmaps for the highest-unit majors—has been completed. In addition, this summer, block registration was piloted through an EOP Summer Bridge cohort; a report will be submitted to GISC by the end of October, 2011.

Recommended Next Steps: Discussion needs to take place at First-Year Council and with college administrations about the benefits and costs of block registration leading to a final decision about whether we move forward with this action step. If the decision is made to implement block registration, as either a pilot or for all FTF, then an action plan will have to be developed.

Professional Development for Instructors of First-Year Students (Responsible Party: David Barsky)

Over the last year, a planning group from the First-Year Council composed of the Associate Director of First Year programs and faculty closely associated with key first-year courses to develop a day-long workshop for instructors of first-year students. After consultation with groups and offices across campus, including the Faculty Center and student support offices, the planning group organized and held a well-attended, day-long session in August 2011.

Recommended Next Steps: Evaluate feedback from August 2011 session and develop plans for the coming year.

Learning Communities—development and assessment plan (Responsible Party: David Barsky)

The CSUSM learning community program expanded in several areas this year, including the addition of learning community programming for undecided students and the further development of learning communities for student athletes, for students planning to major in business and for those interested in global issues. Because of new contract procedures in the university's residence hall in Spring 2011, the long-standing residential learning community program—The San Marcos Experience (SME)—suffered from declining enrollment for Fall 2011. All learning communities developed student learning outcomes statements that go beyond the learning outcomes of the constituent courses to capture the outcomes associated with linking the courses and co-curricular activities.

Recommended Next Steps: Key next steps include implementing a data-gathering plan so that we can assess learning community effectiveness, assessment of practices that led to enrollment decline in SME, a plan for expansion of the LC program, and the development of PeopleSoft programming to address registration difficulties.

Early Warning System (Responsible Parties: Eloise Stiglitz, Lorena Meza, April Grommo)

A group from Student Affairs has investigated multiple Early Warning System models but has not yet made a recommendation to the GISC for a model or a timeline.

Recommended Next Steps: A model for an EWS needs to come to the GISC and, based on that model, further action steps, including the development of business requirements and process flow will need to be addressed with both the Student Affairs committee and IITS representatives with a communications plan for the campus and training and support for participants (faculty, advisors, etc.) of the EWS.

Faculty development activities to support graduation success (Responsible Party: Rika Yoshii)

The Senate Chair, Rika Yoshii, surveyed faculty to learn what development activities they would find useful and found out that the Concierge and Early Warning Systems are what they want instead of workshops. The list of useful contact information has been given to all faculty members so that they can refer students to correct offices.

Recommended Next Steps: Continue to work with the Faculty Center to offer workshops on "how to deal with at-risk students" and "how to avoid making your class a DFW class".

Information Resource Center/Person/Concierge (Responsible Party: Eloise Stiglitz)

Student Affairs has initiated Student Outreach and Referral (SOAR) to provide referral for all students and provide outreach and programming for first-generation students. SOAR is presently being publicized across campus, and it has a web presence.

Recommended Next Steps: Further outreach to campus departments (both academic and administrative) to make them aware of service; tracking and assessment of effectiveness

Male retention gap study (Responsible party: Pat Morris)

Pat Morris has prepared data on continuation and graduation rates by male/female categories and posted on the IPA website.

Recommended Next Steps: GISC needs to study data and develop action plans, as needed, to address gaps between male and female students.

Programmatic accountability for graduation success (Responsible party: Emily Cutrer)

Pat Morris has gathered data on graduation rates by major as well as a study of DFW rates, which will be available to departments after discussion with deans. The biology department piloted the use of the retention/graduation data in its self-study for program review in spring 11.

Recommended next steps: The provost will schedule a meeting with deans and Pat Morris to determine the best way to use the data and to set goals for colleges/departments.

Evaluate Ed Trust milestones relative to CSUSM (Responsible party: Pat Morris)

Pat Morris and April Grommo are working on gathering this data from PeopleSoft.

Recommended Next Steps: Complete study and discuss in GISC. Based on that discussion, develop action steps.

Mentoring Programs—peer and faculty (Responsible parties: Lorena Meza and Rika Yoshii)

As part of its initiative for undeclared majors, the Career Center has piloted an on-line mentoring tool for students which draws upon the expertise of alumni from two programs—the MBA and Human Development. There has been no action to develop/expand peer and faculty mentoring programs.

Recommended Next Steps: Ask Student Affairs and Academic Affairs to do an environmental scan of existing peer programs and to bring that information back to GISC. Assign a GISC member to report to the GISC on the “best practice” peer mentoring program at CSU East Bay. Continue to work with the Faculty Center to make faculty mentoring programs available to all students.

Parent Outreach/Involvement (Responsible party: Eloise Stiglitz)

Student Affairs has conducted research about parent programs at other universities and surveyed parents at new student orientations about their interest in such a program. Information for parents is being posted on Facebook.

Recommended Next Steps: Share model with GISC, develop newsletter, website and hotline, and invite parents to campus events.

K-12 Outreach (Responsible parties: Rika Yoshii and Emily Cutrer)

CSUSM has nine memoranda of understanding with local school districts and foster youth programs. The Office of Community Engagement is working with the school districts and the President’s Office to develop funding for programming associated with the MOUs. In the meantime, very preliminary discussions have begun about using Early Start as a means of reaching out to the school districts and communicating university expectations.

Recommended Next Steps: Explore piloting Early Start with an MOU district and follow-up with Office of Community Engagement about status of other MOU programming.

DFW Study (Responsible party: Pat Morris)

Pat Morris has developed a DFW report that has been submitted to the Provost to share with deans.

Recommended Next Steps: Fold into goal on programmatic accountability, including next steps in that goal.

EO 1037 impact study (Responsible party: Pat Morris)

Data is being gathered for report to GISC.

Recommended Next Step: GISC discussion of data and development of action steps, as appropriate.

Programming for “Undecided” students and those changing majors (Responsible party: Andres Favela)

A learning community for undecided students with programming to help those students choose a major has been established, as has a pilot program connecting students with alumni from two degree programs (see Mentoring). Other action steps are underway.

Recommended Next Steps: Complete tasks on goal matrix and communicate programming and/or recommendations to GISC. Determine whether any policy changes need to be referred to the Senate Academic Policy or Student Affairs committees.

Utilize RaDAR for reporting (Responsible parties: April Grommo and Pat Morris)

A process for establishing data governance and sharing is being developed at the Vice President level.

Recommended Next Steps: GISC to work with data governance system to ensure that reports needed for tracking student success are available on RaDAR.

Re-examination of English remediation:

Literature and Writing Studies Department initiated a search for a tenure-line GEW instructor during the Spring 2011 semester and closed it without a hire. The search has been reopened.

Recommended Next Steps: Gather data on English remediation and share with GISC in preparation for the hiring of GEW director.