

Sonoma State University
Graduation Initiative
Bi-Monthly Report
October 29, 2010

Since the last bi-monthly report (August 27, 2010), the Core Implementation Group (CIG) for the Graduation Initiative has reconvened for the 2010-2011 Academic Year. Additionally, two new positions have been staffed in Academic Affairs: Director of Undergraduate Studies and Director of Diversity and Inclusive Excellence. These are key individuals in Academic Affairs who will be able to help advance the goals of retention and graduation. Also, a new Director of Institutional Research has been hired, filling a position that had been vacant since February 2010. The new Director began on October 1, was able to attend the recent system wide meeting of the Graduation Initiative on Closing the Achievement Gap with the SSU Team, and has joined the CIG.

Under the leadership of the interim Provost, an Academic Affairs Task Group on the Graduation Initiative has been constituted, whose membership includes two School Deans, the AVP for Academic Programs, the Director of Undergraduate Studies, and the Director of Diversity and Inclusive Excellence. The Task Group is charged with providing input to the CIG and the Provost on the Graduation Initiative.

Closing the Achievement Gap: A team attended the recent system wide meeting and shared information with the CIG. In this area, two faculty members are co-facilitating a faculty learning community focused on multi-cultural competence in and out of the classroom supported by a grant from the CSU Institute of Teaching and Learning. Also, our Learning Skills Services Director will lead a two hour workshop for faculty about the experiences of first generation college/university students this Friday, based on research he has conducted regarding

At its last meeting, the CIG made the decision to develop a comprehensive retention and graduation plan, grounded in an analysis of key data about our student population. Decisions will then be made regarding initiatives (some of which are already underway) that will improve the educational experience and lead to improved retention and graduation of all students.

Steps include:

- Identify, locate, analyze, and disseminate the data. A subgroup of CIG, including the Director of Institutional Research, a faculty member, and an administrator from Student Affairs and Enrollment Management has been formed. They will provide feedback at the next CIG meeting (November) and develop a “fact sheet” with key data indicators.
- Create a comprehensive plan based on the analysis of the data with specific goals, objectives, and measurable outcomes (CIG). This plan will include some of the initiatives already underway but will provide clear goals, objectives, and milestones for achievement.
- Continue implementation and on-going refinement of a variety of initiatives in three broad areas:
 - Academics (e.g., First Year Programs, Early Start, GE, majors, etc.)
 - Academic Logistics (e.g., Degree Audit, Advising, Block Registration, Scheduling (including course availability analysis), etc.)

- Student Life (e.g., physical plant, student activities/programs, residential community, Faculty in Residence Program, co-curricular activities, etc.)
- Communication, Consultation and Inclusiveness. The CIG believes that it is vital to develop within the campus community a very strong commitment to this initiative. While the CIG membership has representatives from the various divisions on campus, as well as faculty, staff and students, the committee feels strongly that more communication and consultation are needed. . The Academic Senate reviewed the first bi-monthly reported submitted in August and provided feedback to the CIG. The standing committees of the Academic Senate will be routinely consulted regarding the work of the CIG and will also be asked to submit their comments and recommendations to CIG and to the bi-monthly reports