



Graduation Rate Initiative
Bi-Monthly Reporting Form
September and October 2010

Date: November 1, 2010

Campus: Humboldt State University

Team Leader: Robert A. Snyder, Provost

1. What did your team commit to completing during September and October (What did you promise)?

The team committed to monitoring the progress of the work groups established in the summer for Early Intervention and First Year Experience. Also, an advising work group was established.

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

The team is now meeting weekly and reviewing an "Action Matrix" to see what initiatives we have and how they are progressing toward completion. As a result of this review process membership in some groups was modified and time lines revised. This process ensures that we have the right people in place and creates a sense of urgency in seeing tasks through to completions.

The job description for our new Retention Coordinator was vetted in the work group and sent to the university vice presidents for further discussion. This will help get the position established.

Several members of the team attended a workshop in San Francisco. We were able to see what others were doing and based upon these presentations, realized that we are on the right path regarding high impact measures we are studying and plan to implement. In addition a presentation involving Florida State gave us some needed direction and data to back up our decisions and demonstrated approaches to showing data that can increase understanding and better measure effectiveness.

We reviewed financial aid funding for sophomore at-risk students. If we have funding available, we can identify students who will be able to stay in school this spring by giving them some additional aid in the form of Work Study funds.

A group called the Education Advisory Board was hired to assist with background research. Their data and white papers will give support to our initiatives as we vet them with various constituencies on campus rather than either having folks take our word for things or doing the research required ourselves. This will save time and energy.

It was decided that periodic reports should be made to the Academic Senate to keep them informed about the initiative.

3. What will you accomplish in November and December?

The advising group will make recommendations to the Graduation Rate Improvement steering committee.

There will be recommendations and implementation plans for Early Alert and First Year Experience.

With leadership from the college deans, plans already developed will be put in place to facilitate professional development opportunities for faculty, staff and administrators to help foster student success. This broad based initiative will be developed into focused training sessions to provide information, resources and strategies to support student needs both in and out of the classroom.