

Graduation Initiative 2025 Task Force

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Zoom Meeting 10:00 am – 11:00 am

Present: Debra Jackson (Chair), Deisy Mascarinas (Admin Support), Aaron Hedge, Claudia Catota, Denise Romero, Doreen Anderson-Facile, Dwayne Cantrell, Faust Gorham, Ilaria Pesco, Janine Cornelison, Jennifer Mccune, Jonathan Young, Kimber Wellman, Lisa Zuzarte, Luis Vega, Markel Quarles, Monica Malhotra, Nyakundi Michieka, Carson Vollmer

Meeting began at 10:00 a.m.

Debra Jackson begins by welcoming and thanking everyone for attending.

Project Jump Start – Paul Salie

- Paul Salie shared that his goal with project jump start was to help with the 4-year graduation rate for STEM Majors. The program focused on helping students with their math placement, since most of the current Math roadmaps assume that students are coming in at a Calculus level. However, most students are coming in at Math 1050 or lower; therefore, through Project Jump Start students are helped to start off in Calculus.
- The program allows for this through its three-week workshop that focuses on reviewing precalculus. Additionally, through the program students were given the opportunity to take the math placement exam, so that they could test into a higher-level math course. Students were also given a peer mentor to help them with their math and other college related questions/concerns.
- P. Salie also shared the report of the program with the group. He mentioned how initially he had wished to recruit 40 students for the program; however, given the circumstances of it being approved last minute and only having two to three weeks to recruit students. He was only able to get about 14 students.
- Of those 14 students only 8 of them were able to take the exam, because not all had their student IDs, and to take the proctored exam they needed their CSUB ID. Additionally, of those 8 who took the exam only half of them tested into a higher-level math course.
- Another aspect of the program was to help students in their first semester Math course, S. Paul shared that of the 14 students who took part of the summer workshop all, but one passed their math course.
- Moving forward, P. Salie suggested that they begin doing recruitment before advising begins, so that they can get more students. Recruiting earlier would also help with getting students their IDs in time to take the test. He also suggested that they focus on Engineering and Math majors, since their course load is more math focused, in comparison, to other STEM majors. He also suggested that they find the budget to make the exam free of charge to ensure that more students are interested in joining, and so that money is not an issue for students getting involved in the program.
- D. Jackson suggested that P. Sallie work with Dr. Lamb to create roadmaps for those students not coming in at a Calculus Level, so that they know which courses they need to take.

Missing links to academic success for Pell grant and URM students

- L. Vega shared that something similar happened with his program, initially he had wanted to hire 9 students to help them build connections; however, he was only able to hire 3 students.
- By hiring those students, he shared how he was able to significantly impact their success, for one student he was able to get him land a job by writing him a letter of recommendation.
- He shared the document of his project findings with the group. The document highlighted how students appreciate the sense of belonging, connectedness, and resources like advising and tutoring that are offered to them.
- D. Jackson suggested that L. Vega take his findings to his subgroup to ensure that those issues are heard and to bring more awareness to them.

Proposal for assigned awards

- D. Jackson shared that three application had been submitted for the assigned awards. She will share the applications with those who volunteered score them, so that they can get those awards distributed.

Meeting ended at 11:00 a.m.