

## **INNOVATIONS IN ADVISING**

Sacramento State is developing several innovative approaches to strengthening undergraduate advising for our students. The projects range from college and disciplinary based pilot efforts involving close to twenty faculty members to the development of specific advising and academic information tools. These innovations directly and indirectly address several of the enumerated items in the Chancellor's memo: points 4, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, and 18.

### **Advising Initiative**

The Faculty Senate, with matching funds from the Provost, has allocated funds to support an advising initiative which will engage faculty in all colleges in faculty driven projects. Funds provide for assigned time over a two-year period for teams of faculty at the department or college levels. Faculty proposals identified a specific problem with retention or advising of students, proposed a set of strategies, and included an assessment process for evaluating results. Faculty will participate in an annual workshop starting next Spring to share the "lessons" learned from their approach. Projects include:

- a team of biology and chemistry faculty advising pre-health majors about a range of health profession options beyond the typically limited goals of medical school;
- the College of Health and Human Services is establishing a pre-major advising effort to transfer students in making the transitions to majors in social work, physical therapy, recreation and leisure studies, etc.;
- faculty in the Department of Child Development are establishing a direct intervention with community college students to help them make choices about various career options and the academic implications;
- faculty in the College of Education are working to establish stronger links with students in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics to develop early interest in teaching careers in Math and Science;
- a campus-wide project developing specific advising strategies for freshman who are placed on academic probation.

### **Degree Quest**

The Office of Academic Affairs is supporting the development of an online interactive roadmap, Degree Quest, which will be available to assist students in their coursework planning and builds from the roadmaps developed by department faculty. Specifically the tool will permit students to make good course selection choices and to anticipate the time and course implications of any changes in the major they may choose.

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