January 28, 2009

TO: All Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty

FROM: University Planning Council

RE: Release Time Grants for Projects to Support Student Success, Fall 2009 and Spring 2010

In 2004, the University initiated a strategic planning process. University-wide goals that emerged from our strategic planning process emphasize the need to enhance academic quality, enrich students' experience and invest in faculty as we complete and finalize Vision 2010 (see http://www.sjsu.edu/strategicplan/). As a result of recommendations made by the University Planning Council (UPC), the President has approved funding .20 release for tenured and tenure-track faculty to reconfigure their load. The overall intent of this initiative is to provide strong and meaningful levels of engagement between students and faculty, sending the message that SJSU is distinctive, special and student-centered.

As we did last year, we would like to highlight the priority issue for SJSU in this grant competition: improving the retention and graduation of our undergraduate students [particularly, for those whose rates are below the university average (for e.g., African American, Latino/a, and first-generation students) (see the WASC essay on Inclusive Excellence: http://www.sjsu.edu/wasc/docs/ee/I_E_essay.doc)].

As such, priority consideration for the awarding of these grants will be given to projects that directly lead to the improvement in retention and graduation of undergraduate students (via specialized advising, mentoring, and involvement in faculty research). Applicants should make explicit how their proposals will directly address the retention and graduation of our students.

With this priority issue in mind, faculty are encouraged to submit proposals for new and existing projects that support and/or engage San Jose State University students in a wide variety of curricular and co-curricular experiences in the following broad four categories: service learning, mentoring/advising, research, and curricular activities. Some examples might include (but are not limited to):

- Creative approaches to advising and mentoring students
- Curriculum development project

2009-2010 UPC Grants for Student Success
- Engaging students in faculty research
- Engaging students in community projects
- Collaborative research with community-based groups
- Guiding students through academic disciplines
- Advising student clubs
- Development of co-curricular programs
- Intensive reading programs
- Mentoring diverse students to pursue academic careers
- Apprentice programs
- Interdisciplinary projects
- Grant writing with students
- Creation of learning environments which are student-centered
- Integrating community into the educational experience

All tenured and tenure-track faculty are encouraged to apply. Criteria for selection are:

1. Project focuses on the priority theme identified above (improving retention and graduation for targeted undergraduate students at SJSU);
2. Proposal has clearly defined outcome(s) that are tied to student engagement and success;
3. Project can be completed in the timeframe described;
4. Proposal describes an assessment strategy that gathers relevant data

Limit your response to the space on the application form provided. Funding will not be awarded for two consecutive semesters. If applicable, funding is contingent upon the submission of an acceptable assessment report for Spring 2009. **Applications must be signed by department chairs and deans and forwarded to the Office of the Provost no later than noon, Friday, April 3, 2009.** The signed original and 12 copies should be forwarded to the Provost's Office (ADM 174). Funding decisions will be announced the week of May 4th, 2009. [Like last year, the selection of these awards will now be made by a University Committee (the Junior Career Development Grant Selection committee) made up of elected faculty members from each college] which is convened by the Office of Faculty Affairs.

If you have any questions about this funding opportunity, please contact Dr. Rona Halualani (924-1122).
University Planning Council
Reconfiguring Faculty Load to Support Student Success
Grant Application Fall 2009 - Spring 2010

Name: ___________________________  Campus Phone: _______________________
Email: ___________________________  Academic Rank: _______________________
Department: ______________________  College: _____________________________
Semester Requested (Choose one only): ______ Fall 2009  ______ Spring 2010  ______ Either
Project Title: _____________________

Briefly describe your project in the space below. Specify goal(s), project activities, timeline, and the impact on students as well as the number of students impacted (10 point type minimum). Indicate how your project supports Vision 2010 and SJSU's strategic planning goals.

Assessment Plan:

My signature below indicates that release time for this project has not been funded by another source and this project will not require any additional department/college resources not specified in this proposal.

Applicant's Signature _________________________________  Date _____________

My signature below indicates that I have read and approve of this proposal. This faculty can be released for the work requested.

Department Chair's Signature __________________________  Date _____________

Dean's Signature __________________________  Date _____________

This application (original and 12 copies) must be received in the Office of the Provost (ADM 174) by noon, April 3, 2009.