Four Pillars Update from Spring 2017

Overall Goals

- The share of undergraduates taking 15+ units is at a high water mark this semester at 36 percent, up from 25 percent in fall 2015. This is only possible with a combination of efforts around advising and clearing bottlenecks, and is an early indicator of a significant increase in the number of students making timely progress to degree.

College Readiness

- SJSU has received a $50,000 Collaborative Opportunity Grant from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities’ Urban Serving Universities division to pilot Summer College Readiness Institutes at Lincoln and Mt.Pleasant high schools. In this pilot initiative, SJSU is partnering with the high schools to repurpose two existing summer school classes at each school. The classes are traditionally used to make-up a math or English class from the previous school year. They will be enhanced to include college readiness support in order to bolster the college-going culture amongst this at-risk population. We are augmenting the traditional math and English classes with mentoring and tutoring from SJSU peer educators; workshops on college admissions, study skills, and standardized test prep; a parent/family information night and a tour of SJSU.
- In July, 60 rising high school seniors will participate in a month-long S.A.T. prep and College Application BootCamp. In this new initiative, SJSU is partnering with the Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley and San Jose Cal-Soap. Students will attend four hours of classes Monday through Friday, complete three free S.A.T. diagnostic tests, attend college admission and scholarships workshops, and visit San Jose State University and other college campuses.
- The Spartan Scholars Program and Summer Bridge will begin on July 1. The five-week academic intensive programs provide participants with English, math and college readiness classes. In addition, the students participate in activities and various seminars that allow them to build a San Jose State University network of friends, faculty, staff and connects them with campus resources.

Advising

- The registration calendar for fall 2017 was adjusted in order to better support the advising of students. The start of registration for fall classes was moved from the beginning of June to the beginning of May. This has allowed students to get their questions and registration issues resolved while faculty advisors were still available.
- Academic Advising and Retention Services has created a process to support URM and undeclared students on probation. This involves mandatory study hours and workshops. They are also partially supporting the probation students in CASA and Engineering. The study hall sessions run Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Student Services Center, with an average of 250 students stopping in per day this semester. In fall 2016 probation workshops, 202 students attended one of the nine workshops. This has resulted in a decreased number of undeclared and URM students being dismissed.

Student Engagement

- Student Involvement hosted and sponsored an emerging leadership conference in partnership with the Circle of Change Leadership Conference organization on March 4 with
174 students attending from SJSU, CSU Sacramento, Ohlone College and American River College. The Circle of Change Leadership Conference organization impacts the lives of student leaders through the use of dynamic keynote speakers, workshop sessions on leadership development and paneled sessions with seasoned executives from Fortune 500 companies. Executive leaders from EA Sports, Marketo’s Global Enablement, Google and Yelp shared tips on the job search for millennials, navigating diversity in the workplace and the importance of making connections.

- The Career Center hosted four career fairs involving more than 2,000 students and 17 employer information sessions. To prepare students to interact successfully with employers, this year the team also provided career coaching and professional development workshops to more than 2,000 students a semester.
- The Student Health Center’s Wellness & Health Promotion team typically reaches 20,000+ students each year through educational events and workshops, one-on-one consultations, and mentorship of approximately 100 Peer Health Educators and student staff. A highlight for spring 2017 was the annual Spartapalooza Wellness Festival. The event showcased 50+ interactive booths offering up opportunities for the 1,100 attendees to engage in various wellness practices. The majority of attendees indicated their intention to make a behavioral change to support their well-being.

**Clearing Bottlenecks**

- More than 6,400 additional seats were made available to students in bottleneck courses through the bottleneck initiative during 2016-17. The results have been positive. Average unit loads among undergraduate students increased from 12.4 to 12.75 and courses with waitlists dropped dramatically (as reported in the February update). The effort to clear bottlenecks will continue in 2017-18.