State University System
Student Success to Meet State Needs
2008-09 Budget

Note: On August 27, 2007, the State University System Council of Academic Vice Presidents met, discussed this potential budget issue, and expressed unanimous support for it. In an effort to establish a clearer understanding of just how individual institutions would direct funds to improve student advising, retention, and successful progression to graduation, Board staff asked the Vice Presidents to respond to the information request included below. Responses will be summarized at the September 26th Committee meeting.

Total Budget Need to Improve Student Advising, Retention, and Graduation: $82,432,240

Florida and the nation face an increasing workforce demand for employees with the baccalaureate degree or higher. To respond to this need, the Board of Governors and the State University System have established goals to increase student success in attaining a high-quality education in a timely manner. This Legislative Budget Request will provide funds to replicate and/or scale up programs, services, and structures identified as best /promising practices for improving student advising, retention, and graduation. The request addresses identified gaps in programs and services needed to fulfill the System's responsibility to students already enrolled in the System. Additionally, the funds will assist the System in preparing the diverse and talented workforce needed for Florida's success in the global economy.

At the request of the Board of Governors, university leaders were asked to review existing institutional programs and services to determine their effectiveness in supporting student access, retention, and successful progression to graduation. University leaders were encouraged to identify crucial gaps in services, where efficiencies could be gained, and where best/promising practices could be leveraged to improve educational attainment for all students, particularly students from traditionally underrepresented populations. The chart below lists programs, services, and systems that university representatives identified which are aligned with current national best and promising practices for student retention and timely graduation and which were identified in 2006 by the BOG Student Affairs Committee and the Governor's Commission on Access and Diversity as being worthy of emulation for supporting improved access and successful retention to graduation. [It should be noted that some of the items listed in the chart were included in individual university LBRs as "outreach and access initiatives" or "student tracking, retention, and graduation success initiatives" designed to support the BOG goal of increasing "access to and production of degrees."]

Please indicate with a check (X) those best/promising practices your institution will focus on in the 2008-09 academic year to promote improved retention and graduation, pending funding received as a result of this Legislative Budget Request. [Refer to attachment for proposed distribution of funds.]

Best / Promising Practices	UF	FSU	FAMU	USF	FAU	UWF	UCF	FIU	UNF	FGCU	NCF
Increased funding for the First Generation Matching Grant Program.	X				X		X		X		X
Increased funding for other need-based financial aid.	X			X	X			X	X		X
Targeted services designed for at-risk students, including intentional early intervention programs, "summer bridge" programs, freshman-year experience programs, transfer seminars, and sophomore seminars.		X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X
First-Year Interest Groups, learning communities, peer mentoring, and other initiatives to encourage successful student integration into the campus community.		X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Enhanced 2+2 agreements (e.g., dual degree options, dual advising) to encourage more successful transfer between community colleges and universities.							X		X	X	
Tracking systems with targeted advising that monitor students' enrollment and progression to degree completion. Reduction of student-to-advisor ratios.	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Increased tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, and course re-design to increase completion rates in high-risk (high numbers of DWFs) core courses.		X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X
Provision of additional sections of required courses to ensure availability and expedite students' progression to degree completion.	X		X	X	X*		X		X		
Reduction of the use of adjunct instructors in critical general education and "Gordon Rule" courses. Lower student-faculty ratios in core courses.			X		X*		X	X			
Support to increase degree production in targeted fields.			X					X	X	X	
Enhanced assessment systems to evaluate and monitor student engagement, student learning, and post-graduation success.						X	X		X		X
Focused efforts to maintain an inviting, safe campus climate and culture, with a focus on physical and mental wellness, and support for the campus's diverse populations.							X		X	X	X
Support for additional student engagement and involvement opportunities, such as undergraduate research, senior seminars, study abroad, service learning, community service, civic engagement, and experiential learning.	X	X		X	X		X	X	X		X
Funding to sustain programs with demonstrated success to match grant funding or when federal or other grant funding ends.	X		X		X			X			X
Other: Campus campaign to address "full engagement of faculty and students."						X					
Other: Expanded access for non-traditional students.						X					

* Reduce student-to-faculty ratios. Lower student-faculty ratios in core courses.