

Undergraduate Retention:  
Committee on Educational Policy  
Views and Actions

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# Process

- Collection of data by VPDUE and IR (Summer 2005 and earlier)
- Discussion of data, development of understanding by CEP, VPDUE, and campus (Fall and Winter)
- Decisions on direct actions (Winter, Spring)
- Recommendations on other actions (Spring, with CAFA, CPB)

# CEP Questions

- What impediments to retention exist among undergraduate regulations, policies, and procedures?
  - These items may be addressed directly by CEP
- What other approaches and programs can be used to increase first and second year retention?
  - These items will need to be addressed by CEP and other Senate Committees, Programs and Program Chairs, Divisional Deans, VPDUE, and EVC.

# Policy Focus

- Do we know which students are in trouble?
  - Not always
  - Revising minimum progress regulation
- Do we impede students who are not in trouble?
  - Sometimes
  - Working to reduce paperwork and plethora of exceptions
  - Simplify and enable student choice so top students can take control of their education, rather than the reverse
  - Ensure entry into key lower-division courses
- Do we engage students with their disciplines, and hence UCSC, early enough?
  - Not always
  - Advising Clusters help
  - Late major declaration (7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> quarter, after 2 years)

# Program Focus

- How can programs engage their majors earlier?
  - Next evolution of the discovery seminar
  - Honors major variants
  - Consider full 4-5 year career of student in context of major completion
  - Clear articulation of major objectives
  - ???
- How can programs retain students?
  - Programs can't retain students they don't know they have (see Policy Focus)
  - Develop clubs, social, and support activities for students
    - It can be very difficult to get frosh and sophomores to take part
    - Ensure college advising offices know of these opportunities
  - Involve students in retention planning

# Program Focus

- How can the campus and divisions retain students?
  - Help programs retain students
  - Establish divisional and campus honors programs to engage students
  - Develop cluster-based curricula and advising for the early years to help students explore majors
  - Invest in initiatives and experiments designed to improve retention
    - Losing students along the way is costly

# Forum Discussion

- These are just a few approaches to retention
- The ideas from this forum should help the campus and its units develop strategies for retention