

## **Goal 1: Excellence in Teaching and Learning**

### ***D. Improve retention in the student pipeline; increase graduation rates***

#### **Stress benefits of timely graduation**

*Compare economic benefits of graduating one year later with poorer grades and graduating on time with better grades. Short-term satisfaction versus long-term gain. Emphasize that working while studying should be held to the minimum necessary level. Getting a bachelor's degree will yield about \$1 million additional lifetime earnings over a high school diploma alone. Need a suitable pamphlet.*

*Committee: Subir Chakrabarti, Scott Evenbeck [chair], and Amy Warner.*

#### **Current Status**

- The first-year seminars embedded in the learning communities include intrusive advising and strong support for students selecting majors and careers consistent with their capacities and interests.
- IUPUI is increasing Summer Bridge options before the first year.

#### **Recommendations**

- Build on the recommendation of the 2007 AAC&U team that Fall 2008 learning communities conduct a pilot in which students develop personal statements that outline their pathways to graduation (incorporating curriculum, study abroad, undergraduate research, service learning, and internships). Consider full implementation for all entering students in Fall 2009.
- Share information on the economic benefits of graduating "on time" with students and parents.
- Enhance summer enrollment and participation in Summer Bridge. Consider expanding Summer Bridge options.
- Expand student employment on campus, including summer employment.
- Provide students and family members with financial literacy programming and resources to improve students' money management skills, help them see that loans can be a good strategy, and discourage credit card use/dependence.
- Study student and family understanding of university financial policies and procedures, identify gaps, and determine whether attention to student financial issues might enhance retention and graduation rates.
- Continue to implement programs and practices that link academic advising with career counseling, assist students and their families in planning for graduation and achievement of long-term goals, and help students understand the relationship between their academic work and their aspirations.

#### **Implementation**

- The committee reviewed a multimedia proposal entitled "Bring your dreams to life at IUPUI." The concept included posters, flyers, wristbands, Web communications, and printed materials and drew on market trends, lifestyle options, and mental and physical health enhancements. The plan is under review by External Affairs as a strategy for student recruitment and retention.
- The Department of Economics is conducting a study in Indianapolis and Indiana on the impact of a timely graduation. Findings will be presented in a print publication and on the Web.

(Revised October 26, 2007)

