1. What did your team commit to completing during September and October, 2012 (What did you promise)?

Decisions and implementation plans were to be developed around Early Start, Advising, First Year Experience and course scheduling.

Work groups to look at coordination of services for underserved populations and student employment were to be formed and begin their work.

2. What did you do and how will it help?

A decision was made not to offer the 1 unit First Year Experience course in the future. Although the curriculum was revised after the first offering, as a 1 unit, semi-voluntary course, it was not successful in assisting with first year retention. This allows the university to target those resources elsewhere.

A joint faculty/administration working group has been formed by request of the University Senate to explore the idea of a 3 unit Area E GE class for all freshmen as recommended by a previous First Year Experience committee. It is hoped that some agreement can be worked out for a comprehensive first year experience class that would commence in fall 2014.

A Scheduling Working Group was charged with reviewing current course scheduling practices and policies and recommending changes that would allow students a better opportunity to put together a full unit load of meaningful (GE and required major courses) classes. This group will make recommendations in November. By better distribution of courses across time periods and days of the week, and the establishment of a “conflict matrix” that will help departments in understanding which courses, both in majors and across GE/service course offerings, cannot conflict with each other, students will have better and more choices available when registering for courses.

A Request for Proposals for third party Early Alert software was released and a sub-group of the Enrollment Management Work Group is evaluating the submissions and will make a recommendation soon. The campus has committed to this strategy and to early alert and intervention in general. This is considered a best practice for retention.

The final draft of the Enrollment Management Plan has been developed and will be released to
the campus community. Strategies in the plan include coordinating services to underserved populations, leveraging scholarship, aid money to focus on student retention, revising advising tools and procedures to better facilitate graduation with 120 units, modifying the registration process to restrict student ability to choose courses that are not graduation requirements, and requiring students to submit and follow graduation plans when they have achieved 90 units. By establishing an overarching plan and specific strategies, the university will be better able to coordinate efforts and pool resources across various units to improve retention and graduation rates.

3. What will you accomplish in November and December?

The scheduling work group will make its recommendations to the Enrollment Management Working Group and to the campus at large.

A third party software system for early alert/intervention will be identified and installation and training will begin.

The final version of the Enrollment Management Plan will be distributed to the campus.

Implementation will be begin for providing university level registration holds for students with 90 or more units pending filing a graduation plan.

Decisions will be made regarding program impaction.

Departments will begin to develop and implement plans to reduce the number of units students take before graduation (currently 149.9 for a BA and 161.6 for a BS for first time freshmen and 84.1 BA and 99.2 BS for transfer students).

Plans for better coordination of the Advising Center and College/Department level advising efforts will be finalized and implementation will begin.