

California State University SAN MARCOS

AB 540 Student Support Services

Status Update and Action Plan

Spring 2017

AB 540 Student Support Services Status Update and Action Plan

Introduction: The CSUSM AB 540 Task Force Recommendation Review Process

The CSUSM AB 540 Task Force was charged by the President on July 21, 2016 and delivered their report and recommendations to her on December 21, 2016. Upon receipt the President thanked the task force for their work and named Vice President for Student Affairs Lorena Checa to take the lead, in consultation with others, on developing a plan to address the report's thirty-one recommendations.

A first review of the recommendations was conducted by the Student Affairs Leadership Team during February 2017 to identify programs and services that are currently being offered that address specific report recommendations. Divisions across the university were consulted as appropriate and on March 13th, 2017 the President's Executive Council approved all responses

This document summarizes the outcome of the recommendation reviews and proposed actions to address identified needs. For ease of review, the thirty-one recommendations have been sorted into three general categories:

- 1. Items that the campus has already institutionalized.
- 2. Items that that we will be acting on as part of our campus' implementation of the Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan.
- 3. Items that are beyond our direct control to address due to legal or other constraints.

Comments regarding the current status or action plan for each recommendation, or cluster of overlapping recommendations, are provided in italics immediately following each recommendation.

Section One: Items that have already been institutionalized

Recommendation

Promoting greater knowledge and awareness among local high school-based personnel of the procedures and resources related to admissions application processes and timelines for AB 540 students, and financial aid application processes such as the DREAM application, scholarship resources, etc.

Creating and providing opportunities to generate awareness to both families of AB 540 students, and students, of available external financial resources that will assist in financial planning.

Establishing a regional collaborative AB 540 student's informational workshop/s and/or conferences for local service area high schools for AB 540 students interested in attending CSUSM with comprehensive topics geared to their needs (admissions process, Dream application, campus resources, scholarship and funding resources and strategies, promotion of safe campus climate, etc.).

Status	Responsible Party	Timeline	Costs	Resources Needed
These three items overlap and are being addressed collectively.	Office of	Established		Implemented
Admissions and Financial Aid regularly engage in over 300 outreach	Admissions	and ongoing.		with current
events to local high schools and colleges that includes this				resources
information. In addition, Admissions runs queries to identify possible	Financial Aid &			
AB540 candidates throughout the admission cycle, sends a link for	Scholarships Office			
the California Tuition Exemption Request form and directions to all				
potentially AB 540 eligible candidates, provides an AB 540 applicant	Outreach Programs			
lists to campus stakeholders, and assists high school and college				
counselors with questions. In addition, CSUSM will host the CSU				
High School Counselor's Conference on September 21, 2017 with				
breakout sessions about Cal State Apply and AB 540 (Est.				
attendance over 500 counselors).				

Cost Range	\$0 - \$1,00

<u>00 Low: \$1,000 - \$25k</u>

Recommendation				
Sending student offers of financial aid awards early-on in the admissions cycle to minimize ambiguity of funding eligibility, and promote certainty of financial aid funding that will enable successful matriculation to CSUSM.				
Status	Responsible Party	Timeline	Costs Estimate	Resources Needed
Financial Aid award offers continue to be pushed earlier every year. In 2016 award offers were made in April, as opposed to May in 2015. It is anticipated to be earlier in 2017 as processes continue to be improved. Staff trainings on regulations in this area is an ongoing priority in Financial Aid.	Financial Aid & Scholarships Office	Established and ongoing.		Implemented with current resources

Recommendation	on
Recommendation	

Seeking new funding mechanisms (private donors, corporate sponsorships, fundraising campaigns etc.) to directly support student financial needs that are available to AB 540 students.

Status	Responsible Party	Timeline	Costs Estimate	Resources Needed
University Advancement is in the process of developing a scholarship program open to all students, and AB 540 students will be encouraged to apply. In addition, the Scholarship Office is conducting a review of scholarships to identify those for which AB 540 students are eligible and this information will be included on the AB 540 web portal (discussed in item s below).	University Advancement Financial Aid & Scholarships Office	Established and ongoing.		Implemented with current resources.

Cost	Range	<u>\$0 - \$1,0</u>	c

Recommendation				
Creating a short-term student loan program that eliminates eligi	pility based on residency	y requirements.		
Status	Responsible Party	Timeline	Costs Estimate	Resources Needed
Financial Aid already offers short term loans up to \$500 per student (can be higher in emergency situations), and all students, including AB 540 students, are eligible. In addition, ASI also maintains a donor supported student emergency fund which aids	Financial Aid & Scholarships Office Associated	Established and ongoing.		Implemented with current resources.
students experiencing an unforeseen financial crisis, however the funds do not need to be repaid.	Students, Inc. University			
	Advancement			

Recommendation				
Centralizing information on resources that would support AB 540 students to become engaged and knowledgeable of grant opportunities and their application processes.				
Status	Responsible Party	Timeline	Costs Estimate	Resources Needed
This web based resource for financial aid information, including grant opportunities and the application process, already exists and will be included on the AB 540 web portal (discussed in item s	Financial Aid & Scholarships Office	Established and ongoing.		Implemented with current resources.
below). The Financial Aid web based resource is located at: <u>http://www.csusm.edu/finaid/apply_for_finaid/apply_dream/in</u> <u>dex.html</u>	Student Affairs	Web portal complete by May 2017		

Cost Range	\$0 - \$1,000

ecommendation				
Identifying procedural practices that undermine the supportive climate the university seeks to attain, specifically with admissions, financial aid, and housing processes.				
Status	Responsible Party	Timeline	Costs Estimate	Resource Needed
Financial Aid and Admissions have already engaged in refining	Financial Aid &	Established		Implemente
practices to support AB 540 students, and continue to identify new poportunities for further improvements. To provide one example,	Scholarships Office	and ongoing.		with current resources.
Financial Aid historically had just one person trained to do DREAM	Housing &			
/erifications. Over the past year that number has increased to	Residential			
hree and continues to grow. It used to take 3-4 months to process	Education			
a verification. Now it is down to 3-4 days. In addition, the process				
used to require the student to complete four different forms. This				
has been refined to be one form that is a fillable PDF accessible on				
the web. It can also be submitted via email now.				

We are clarifying Housing contracting procedures and their intersection with state and federal law to identify any additional opportunities to support AB 540 students.

Cost Range	\$0 - \$1,000
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<u>Low: \$1,000 - \$25k</u>

Recommendation				
Enhancing campus mental health and counseling services that are attuned to the needs of AB 540 students, particularly to sensitive to the added stress, fear, and depression associated with undocumented status.				
Status	Responsible Party	Timeline	Costs Estimate	Resources Needed
Student Health & Counseling Services has already engaged in a	Student Health &	Established		Implemented
review of current practices to ensure they are culturally sensitive to	Counseling Services	and ongoing.		with current
the specific needs of AB 540 students. They are engaging in an				resources.
awareness campaign to inform campus entities of their services,	Cougar Care			
which are available to AB 540 students. In addition, the Cougar	Network			
Care Network, and specifically Personalized Academic Success				
Services, has a strong support and referral system in place that is sensitive to the needs of AB 540 students.				

Recommendation

Developing and implementing activities and programing that support academic success, as a means to enhance the retention, graduation, and development of AB 540 students.

Status	Responsible Party	Timeline	Costs Estimate	Resources Needed
Student Academic Support Services units, the Cougar Care	Student Academic	Established		Implemented
Network, and the Academic Success Center are already offering	Support Services	and ongoing.		with current
services to support the academic success of AB 540 students. The				resources.
Latin@ Center and Cross-Cultural Centers will continue to partner	Cultural Centers			
with each other and campus stakeholders to leverage and enhance				
their programming to address these needs.	Academic Success			
	Centers			
	Cougar Care			
	Network			

Cost Range	<u>\$0 - \$1,000</u>	Lov

Recommendation				
Providing mentoring opportunities (e.g., peer to peer, professiona	al connections).			
Status	Responsible Party	Timeline	Costs Estimate	Resources Needed
Our campus offers some mentoring opportunities that are available to AB 540 students, such as those offered through the	Faculty Center	Mapping in summer 2017		Implemented with current
Faculty Mentoring Program, SASS units and elsewhere on campus. A full mapping of campus mentoring programs will be conducted over the summer of 2017 to identify all mentoring opportunities for AB 540 students, and a marketing plan to raise awareness of these opportunities will be implemented for fall 2017.	Student Affairs	Marketing in fall 2017		resources.

Developing an on-going basis of assessment of entering and graduating AB 540 students to augment levels of institutional responsiveness and the delivery of timely services.				
Status	Responsible Party	Timeline	Costs Estimate	Resources Needed
Ad hoc assessments have been conducted at the request of specific areas, such as CAMP and EOP. However, a subcommittee of the revised Diversity Advisory Council (discussed elsewhere in this	Student Support Services Programs	Fall 2017		Implemented with current resources
document) will work with campus stakeholders to assess measures of success for AB 540 students and to identify opportunities for improvements in AB 540 student support services.	Diversity Council Subcommittee			
	Office of Diversity, Educational Equity, Inclusion & Ombuds			

Cost Range <u>so</u>) - \$1,000
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Recommendation				
Collaborating with community partners to support the university post-graduate academic and career endeavors.	goals of preparing AB 5	40 student gradua	ates for career re	eadiness and/or
Status	Responsible Party	Timeline	Costs Estimate	Resources Needed
The Office of Internships has protocols in place to support internship opportunities for AB540 students, and information	Office of Internships	Established and ongoing.		Implemented with current
about these opportunities will be provided on the AB 540 web portal (discussed in item s below).	Career Center			resources.
The Career Center supports post-graduate academic and career endeavors by providing a supportive environment for career development and offers a variety of services such as confidential career counseling, resume and cover letter writing, graduate application essay reviews, and mock interviews and will stay current with trainings that address unique needs and dilemmas of AB 540 students.				
Recommendation	1	I		•
Developing campus and community partnerships that will promot	te activities and events	that create a supp	ortive student c	ampus climate.
Status	Responsible Party	Timeline	Costs Estimate	Resources Needed
We engage the community through Civic Learning and Community	Office of Diversity,	Established		Implemented
Outroach Numerous computer antroaching hour hour developed to	Educational Equity,	and ongoing.		with current
Outreach. Numerous campus partnerships have been developed to offer programming and activities related to campus climate (i.e.	Inclusion & Ombuds			resources.
	Inclusion & Ombuds Student Affairs			resources.
offer programming and activities related to campus climate (i.e.				resources.

		Cost Range	\$0 - \$1,000	<u>Low: \$1,000 - \$25k</u>	Low/Med
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Recommendation				
Leveraging resources to facilitate career development for AB 540	students.			
Status	Responsible Party	Timeline	Costs Estimate	Resources Needed
Career Services offers career development services to all students, including AB 540. The Office of Internships has protocols in place to support AB540 students, and the offices will also provide web links to the information and tools that will be available on the AB 540 information portal (discussed in item s below).	Career Center Office of Internships	Established and ongoing.		Implemented with current resources.

Recommendation				
Institutionalizing collaboration with University Police Department	to address and ensure	safety issues cond	erns related to	AB 540 students
Status	Responsible Party	Timeline	Costs Estimate	Resources Needed
Communications regarding UPD policy and undocumented student safety have already been distributed and are incorporated into a variety of programming. Collaboration to increase awareness of this policy continues and will be ongoing.	University Police Cultural Centers	Established and ongoing.		Implemented with current resources.

Cost Range <u>\$0 - \$1,000</u>	Low: \$1,000 - \$25k
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Recommendation					
Connecting to local and on-campus food security programs / resources.					
Status	Responsible Party	Timeline	Costs Estimate	Resources Needed	
Associated Students, Inc. has developed a three phase plan for a	Associated	1 st phase of		Space and food	
campus food pantry that will be available to all students, and	Students, Inc.	Food Panty to		storage	
information on community resources is available through a variety		open in Fall		equipment.	
of sources on campus, including referrals through the Cougar Care	Cougar Care	2017			
Network.	Network			Donor	
				development	
	University				
	Advancement				

Recommendation					
Developing and providing bilingual materials and information ses	sions to also inform par	ents / guardians.			
Status	Responsible Party	Timeline	Costs Estimate	Resources Needed	
We would need to map all efforts for a full picture, however the Orientation and New Student Programs and Educational Opportunity Programs orientation both offer sessions in Spanish. Arrangements for translation services are also offered at campus events. In addition, Student Affairs will be exploring parental outreach to parents and families as part of their strategic planning process.	Student Affairs	Mapping to identify gaps summer 2017 Parental outreach to be implemented during 2017- 2018 AY.			

Cost Range	\$0 - \$1,000

Facilitating relevant information and workshops related to AB 540 legal and immigration needs, for example, bringing immigration law experts to provide workshops, one on one information sessions, etc.					
Status	Responsible Party	Timeline	Costs Estimate	Resources Needed	
<i>We are already engaged in these efforts, for example free legal</i>	Cultural Centers	Web portal to		Implemented with current	
consultation sessions for students with immigration questions was offered in the Latin@ Center on January 3, 2017. In addition, Student Affairs offered two sessions of an Immigration 101 training, presented by an immigration attorney, at their 2017 Professional Development Conference.	Student Affairs	launch by May 2017		resources.	
n addition, Student Affairs, in consultation with others, is creating a comprehensive AB 540 web based resource portal which will include information and resources to assist AB 540 students with the range of issues they may face, including legal and immigration issues. The AB 540 informational web portal and will be updated as needed to remain current.					

Recommendation				
Implementing a textbook lending program specifically for AB 540	students.			
Status	Responsible Party	Timeline	Costs Estimate	Resources Needed
While not specific to AB 540 students, many textbooks are on reserve and available for check out in the library. In addition, the CALM (Cougars affordable learning materials) initiative aids faculty in offering students lower cost alternatives by using high- quality open educational resources.	Library			Implemented with current resources.

Section Two: Items that that we will be acting on as part of our campus' implementation of the Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan

Recommendation				
Assessing current and developing new campus mentorship opportunities with student organizations, campus student services, faculty and staff associations, faculty, alumni, and community entities.				
Status	Responsible Party	Timeline	Costs Estimate	Resources Needed
This item will be presented to the Graduation Initiative Steering Committee to consider as a student retention tool connected to our campus Graduation Initiative 2025 goals.	Graduation Initiative Steering Committee (GISC)	To be determined by GISC		To be determined by GISC

Recommendation

Institutionalizing AB 540 Student Ally Trainings for university staff members and support services personnel to foster an understanding and awareness of barriers and hardships AB 540 student experience as a means to assist or direct them to appropriate campus resources.

Status	Responsible Party	Timeline	Costs Estimate	Resources Needed
In consultation with campus stakeholders, Student Affairs will take the lead on developing a comprehensive special student populations training program during the summer of 2017. This program will incorporate already successful trainings modules, such as Vet Net Ally, STAND's Undocu-Ally, and LGBTQA Ally trainings, to develop a comprehensive training model that not only raises awareness of the unique barriers to success that each population experiences, but also provides tangible guidance in how to best assist those students and guide them to appropriate campus resources. This training program will be provided to all members of the Division of Student Affairs, and will also be made available through the Faculty Center starting in the fall of 2017.	Student Affairs	Training developed during summer 2017 and piloted in fall 2017		

Recommendation

Identifying, creating, and institutionalizing a centralized physical space on campus for a DREAMer Center responsible for educating, monitoring, and responding to emerging needs and issues of AB 540 students. Staffed by professional SSP to facilitate and provide advocacy, intervention, and referrals to AB 540 students in need of retention services and resources.

Creating a safe space (center/office) on campus to engage students and build community.

Creating a campus space (center/office) for social, cultural, health/wellness, and academic engagement for AB 540 students, faculty, and staff.

Creating a central location to conduct appropriate relevant programming (events, workshops, guest speakers, etc.), with information and opportunities to support campus and off campus employment opportunities, scholarship resources, and internship opportunities.

Status	Responsible Party	Timeline	Costs Estimate	Resources Needed
These four recommendations have significant overlap and are addressed together in the action plan. All of our campus cultural	Cultural Centers	Fall 2017		Space
centers; The Pride Center, Gender Equity Center, Latin@ Center, and Black Student Center, will continue to provide students with safe spaces and will be positioned to supply support, referrals, and programming for AB 540 students. Collectively, these efforts will be integrated into the Cougar Care Network to ensure that referrals are routed properly and that students receive the assistance they need. In addition, the Office of Diversity, Educational Equity, Inclusion & Ombuds will be restructuring the Diversity Advisory Council to include a Standing Committee focused on diversity related student support and success which will be tasked with providing guidance on new center requests.	Cougar Care Network Office of Diversity, Educational Equity, Inclusion & Ombuds			Staffing

Recommendation

Creating an Advisory Board comprised of a diverse array of campus community representations, including across the colleges and Extended Learning, that will provide continuing campus attention, efforts, and resources to issues that impact the retention and graduation rates of AB 540 students by:

- Advocating on behalf of AB 540 students to identify opportunities to strengthen the policies and procedures to support gaps and needs of AB 540 students as they pertain to recruitment, enrollment, retention and graduation. For example: campus recruitment enhancement efforts, developing additional funding strategies, collecting data to better understand the collective needs and academic progress and success of AB 540 students, and to identify collaborative partnership opportunities with appropriate campus and community resources.
- Conducting appropriate relevant campus collaborations that initiates and develops strong working relationships with campus partners such as Enrollment Management Services, Faculty Center, Undergraduate Studies, Housing, and Student Life and Leadership to advocate for opportunities that will lead to higher retention and graduation rates for AB 540 students at CSUSM.

Status	Responsible Party	Timeline	Costs Estimate	Resources Needed
These two recommendations have significant overlap and are addressed jointly in the action plan. The Division of Student Affairs, in consultation with others, will charge a work group to help identify opportunities and make recommendations to help nurture an inclusive campus climate and improve support to special student populations. The work group will coordinate with campus cultural centers to identify and review measures of student success to inform the delivery of effective support services and advocate for the adoption of emerging best practices.	Student Affairs	2017 – 2018 AY		Implemented with current resources.

Section Three: Items that are beyond our direct control to address due to legal or other constraints

Recommendation						
Working with existing California State laws to become innovators, such as allowing AB 540 to be eligible for state work-study funds.						
Status	Responsible Party	Timeline	Costs Estimate	Resources Needed		
After consultation with the Chancellor's Office and Office of the General Counsel, we have determined that this is not currently possible under existing state laws and would require legislative action.	Legislative Affairs California State University System			Legislative Action		

Recommendation						
Promoting the awareness of campus student assistant positions that allow AB 540 students to earn payment through stipends, working scholarships, and other forms of compensation.						
Status	Responsible Party	Timeline	Costs Estimate	Resources Needed		
After consultation with the Chancellor's Office and Office of the General Counsel, we have determined that this is not currently	Legislative Affairs			Legislative Action		
possible under existing state laws and would require legislative action.	California State University System					

	Cost Range	\$0 - \$1,0
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Providing subsidies for local housing options (on and off campus), renters' rights information, reduced price for campus housing, and possible resident housing employment.					
Status	Responsible Party	Timeline	Costs Estimate	Resources Needed	
Renters' rights information is provided to all students by Student Development Services, however housing subsidies would require external funding. Additionally, we believe reduced prices and	Legislative Affairs University			Legislative Action	
residential housing employment are not currently possible under existing laws and would require legislative action.	Advancement			Donor development	
	Housing & Residential Education				