

Project Name:	Improve Introductory Biology
MIU Round:	Round 1
Sponsor(s):	Institute for Biology Education (IBE)
Coordinator(s):	Janet Branchaw, Director of IBE
Partner(s):	L&S Departments of Botany and Zoology, CALS
Report Date:	Year 1, No activity/report; Year 2, August 2011

Project Specific Goal and Measures

Project Impact Measure(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve advising services to students majoring in the following majors housed in the IBE: Biology, Biological Aspects of Conservation, and Molecular Biology. Improved advising services is operationalized as student ability to complete routine administrative tasks by drop in help versus scheduling an appointment, ease of scheduling advisor appointments, and resumption of previously-existing peer advising services. • Comprehensively reform the introductory Biology course sequence (151/152) to address issues with course capacity, class size, course funding, content delivery, course sequencing, and student services.
Project Impact Data Source(s)	IBE and Academic Planning and Analysis (151/152 enrollments and course sequencing).
Baseline Measure(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advising services prior to the addition of administrative support in 2010-11. • Biology 151/152 enrollments, outcomes, funding, and services prior to implementation of the recommendations in the cross-college comprehensive review committee (ongoing as of August 2011, expected completion in late fall 2011).

General MIU Goals and Measures (applicable to project)

A	Increased access in bottleneck areas	The addition of an receptionist in IBE increased the availability of academic advisors and facilitated easier and faster access to advisors and immediate action on routine administrative matters.
B	Increased capacity for high-demand experiences	N/A at this time. The recommendations of the cross-college committee will guide implementation of this goal.
C	Increased capacity for high-impact practices	N/A at this time. The recommendations of the cross-college committee will guide implementation of this goal.

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D	Increased student learning and teaching excellence	N/A at this time. The recommendations of the cross-college committee will guide implementation of this goal.
E	More tenured, tenure-track faculty teaching undergraduate courses	N/A at this time. The recommendations of the cross-college committee will guide implementation of this goal.
F	Decreased achievement gaps	N/A at this time. The recommendations of the cross-college committee will guide implementation of this goal.
G	Attention to diversity in new hires	The IBE receptionist position is a classified position that followed the requirements for filling classified positions. To the extent possible, IBE prioritized candidates who would be best able to serve the diversity of students enrolled in IBE majors.

Progress Reports

Year 1	No activity or expenditures.
Year 2	<p>IBE hired a receptionist to support its administrative activities such as greeting and assisting students with routine forms and scheduling appointments with advisors. This freed advisors from these routine administrative tasks increasing their availability for advising appointments and allowing renewed effort on a peer-advising program.</p> <p>A cross-college committee, chaired by Bill Tracy, Interim Dean of CALS, is working on a detailed, comprehensive plan for revised instruction in Introductory Biology (Biology/Zoology/Botany 151/152). This committee is expected to wrap up its work in Fall 2011.</p>
