In Semester Analysis Aiding/Assisting Students (iSAAS)

***Strategic Plan Theme*: Student Success**

***Funding Level*: Below $1 million**

***Facility Needs*: No new facilities will be needed**

***Submitting Unit*: Enrollment & Academic Strategic Planning**

Collaborating colleges/departments/units involved with this proposal.

The **In Semester Analysis Aiding/Assisting Students (iSAAS)** project will become a campus-wide resource with a significant impact. Thus, there are no partnering units. While submitted by instructors, EASE reports are sent to students by the Office of the Registrar. The iSAAS project augments the EASE report system by automating the construction of customized, detailed messages for all students within a course.

What is the proposal's big theme or idea?

Using a student's in-semester performance and course participation, provide tailored and encouraging nudges to students as early as the second week of classes while notifying instructors of students needing additional academic support throughout the semester.

What is the proposal's goal?

In Semester Analysis Aiding/Assisting Students (iSAAS) aims to provide an easy-to-use tool to increase student engagement through course data and student-specific, positive nudges.

We know engaging students, especially for instructors with large enrollment courses, is difficult. iSAAS provides instructors a manner to engage with students every week via email. The students receive customized emails about their status within the class along with encouraging nudges, while the instructors receive a general overview of their students' performance.

iSAAS uses course data to identify students needing assistance, allowing instructors to provide students with the resources required to improve their course standing and avoid academic probation. iSAAS delivers the ability to construct weekly, detailed messages with customized nudges for all students within a class. In the future, iSAAS will evaluate a student's progress across courses during a single semester.

iSAAS builds on the ideas and goals of the current Enhancing Academic Success Early (EASE) reporting system. Students typically receive EASE reports twice a semester, and the instructor solely performs the process. We understand constructing personalized, detailed EASE reports is time-consuming, especially for instructors asked to do more with fewer resources. iSAAS aims to reduce the instructor's logical load by automating the analysis of student data and constructing personalized, detailed messages with student-specific nudges to improve student outcomes. In addition, creating customized EASE reports only needs to be initiated by the course instructor(s).

The iSAAS Process: Briefly, at the beginning of the semester, students take a short psychological quiz to identify their general personality type for their customized, positive nudges. Each week the instructor downloads the D2L gradebook for their course and runs the iSAAS analysis application. *Note: We are designing iSAAS for use with MSU's current learning management system, D2L, but it is easy to customize iSAAS for other gradebook formats.* iSAAS identifies class attendance, homework, and assessment trends and generates custom, supportive messages – nudges – for each student within the course. iSAAS returns a

general report, PowerPoint slides, and an Excel workbook to the instructor summarising their class and the correctly formatted CSV file to upload to the Office of the Registrar EASE report system.

Define the significance, or impact of your big idea.

Assisting instructors to engage with their students earlier in the semester and the early identification of students needing academic support reduces the likelihood of placing a student on academic probation. Identifying and assisting students earlier in the semester will lead to better student outcomes and success.

Who will be impacted?

Primarily, students will be impacted by providing timely updates and encouraging nudges about their progress within a course. Secondarily, instructors of large enrollment courses will be able to offer detailed, frequent, and insightful EASE reports to assist their students to succeed without significantly increasing the instructors' workload.

What does sustainability for your proposal look like?

Sustainability for iSAAS is the integration of iSAAS into D2L to reduce the number of steps needed by instructors to interact with students. In addition, we believe developing a relationship with instructors and student success groups will generate interest and support. Initially, iSAAS will focus on large-enrollment first and second-year gateway courses. We know Advisors also receive the EASE reports sent to students and will work with Advisors to limit the impact of the iSAAS reports on their workload.