Supporting Students To and Through the Sophomore Year

Small Group Discussion Summary

October 5, 2012
Programs and Services for Sophomores

• Academic schools touch points—provide more of them, really important.

• Sophomore cornerstone class (career exploration/academic development class/research/planning).

• Helping sophomores visualize the end (attend capstones/senior presentations).

• Sophomore review—alternative option advising.

• Create more space—be an inviting place—inviting social gathering places, real and virtual.
Sophomore Year Issues and Challenges

- Provide increased uniform financial information and resources and strive to begin reaching both students and their families with this information at a very early stage (pre-enrollment). Involve advisors, faculty, and staff in these efforts and incorporate this information across our programs.
Sophomore Year Issues and Challenges

• Provide increased development opportunities for associate faculty who interface a great deal with freshmen and sophomores and provide incentive for participation in the form of recognition and increased job security.

• Plan programs and support for students in the second semester to intentionally extend the support they receive in the first semester. Strive to create a culture or tradition of participation, with a focus on developing faculty-student relationships that will remain intact into the sophomore year. Encourage partnerships with Student Life and academic departments in these efforts.
Data Needed to Know Our Sophomores

• Success Factors:
  • Academic, financial, co-curricular
  • Academic preparation (pre-college vs. college)

• Risk Factors:
  • Academic, financial, co-curricular
  • Exit interviews, withdrawing

• Delivering the information to those who need it for improvement of practice
Structures, Policies, and Procedures Creating Barriers to Success

• No current structure for ownership of students who transitioning from UCOL to major.

• Career exploration—absence of career planning that is mandatory. Not consistent across the university.

• Financial support for sophomore year.