

## EM Retention Committee Meeting & Recommendation Summaries

- Identify reason(s) for leaving
- Traditional vs non-traditional students
- Focus on total student retention vs freshmen only
  - Discussions centered on retention data for freshmen including analysis by population, participation in University interventions, performance in course, and anticipated outcomes for 100 first-time freshmen.
- Effect retention may have on infrastructure
- Transfer vs Native students
- Endorsement of the FOE Philosophy Statement for the 1<sup>st</sup> Year of College at ODU.

### *Recommendations:*

- Approve and Support the Philosophy Statement from the Foundations of Excellence self-study on the First-Year Experience.
- Promote the efforts of the new Student Success Center when it is completed in 2011-2012.
- Achieve and sustain a three-year average retention rate of 80%, a figure consistent with the average rates at peer institutions. The three-year average is to allow for reasonable annual fluctuations. The 80% average will be sustained only with sufficient human and fiscal resources.
- In an effort to provide more academic intervention for students, support the addition of 8 more advisors to work with the freshman population. This recommendation has specific budgetary implications, of course.
- Support the Registrar's request to purchase additional "tracking" software (SunGard) that will aid advisors in their intervention efforts.
- Establish a mechanism to gather quantitative data on the underlying reasons that students are not retained; and charge someone (could be one of the new advisors) with overseeing the coordination of all retention efforts. Combine existing methods of data collection with new ones to enable us to transform our understanding of the retention problem from a qualitative one to a quantitative one.
- Increase (by 8) the number of academic advisors in University College to provide more personal and specialized attention.