Retention and Graduation Council
Residence Life Sub-Committee Summary Report-2007

1. **What are the most important insights or lessons your subcommittee has gained concerning the characteristics, needs, or problems of residential students?**

   - We determined that our search started too broad so we needed to narrow it down by comparing a few basic factors as well as a few specific actions.
   - Since our students move out before they graduate we had difficulty tracking their retention rates (RL students only live-in an average of 3 semesters).
   - We had some good results from EBI (Electronic Benchmarking Inc.) they confirmed that compared to our benchmarked carnage class institutions; RL students indicated that they had higher levels of satisfaction concerning one on one support and referral help from information provided by the RA’s and staffs* but we needed to compare this to non-RL students and prove if it improved retention and graduation rates.

2. **What actions does your subcommittee recommend to better serve or to improve the retention and graduation of your student population?**

   - Doing on-site peer/advising sessions directly in the halls during registration, similar to the project SGA did this past year. We can assess the program’s success by asking students a few questions right on the spot. The objective would be to address some of the SSI advising issues.

   - *Compare graduation rates of non-resident students who started the same semester and year as RL students. If RL students graduated earlier, or at a higher rate, this could prove true that our RL students did better based on a high level of support from one on one contact and service referrals. (as noted in EBI) So could non-resident students receive similar support outside of residence?

   - We have recommended moving the deposit date for returning students to March 1, from April 1. The outcomes are to confirm spaces for some new incoming students early, to increase public relations and retain new potential students before they choose other schools (this has been approved for spring 2008).

**Other initiatives the committee suggests that could help improve retention for all students:**

   - Develop an exit interview process so we can track the following:
     - Why have students left before they finished their degree(s)?
     - If they graduate, asked them to rate aspects of their experience so we can make improvements.

Just a note: When we do the next EBI (Electronic Benchmarking Inc.) survey in 2009 we will collaborate with Institutional Research so we can better utilize the results.