COURSE WITHDRAWAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

D05.0 IV

POLICY REVISION: RECAP

- Student Success Steering Committee: Recommendations

  - LOA/University Withdrawal:

    - Policy Revision Completed 2017

  - Course Withdrawal:

    - Policy Revision Action: December 13, 2018

  - Pass/Fail:

    - Currently in Development by Student Government

  - Academic Probation/Suspension:

    - Currently Under Review by the SSSC

MOTION

- Motion to Approve Changes Proposed to D.05.IV (Course Withdrawal)

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Continue to allow undergraduate students to withdraw from courses until the 80% point of the term (week 11 in a 14 week semester) with the following restrictions:
  - Require department leadership approval when students request to fall below full time status.
  - Require department leadership approval for any course withdrawal for degree-seeking part-time students.

- Leave current policy "as-is" for graduate students.

HOW WE ARRIVED AT RECOMMENDED POLICY REVISION

I. **Benchmarking**

II. **RIT course withdrawal data**

BENCHMARKING
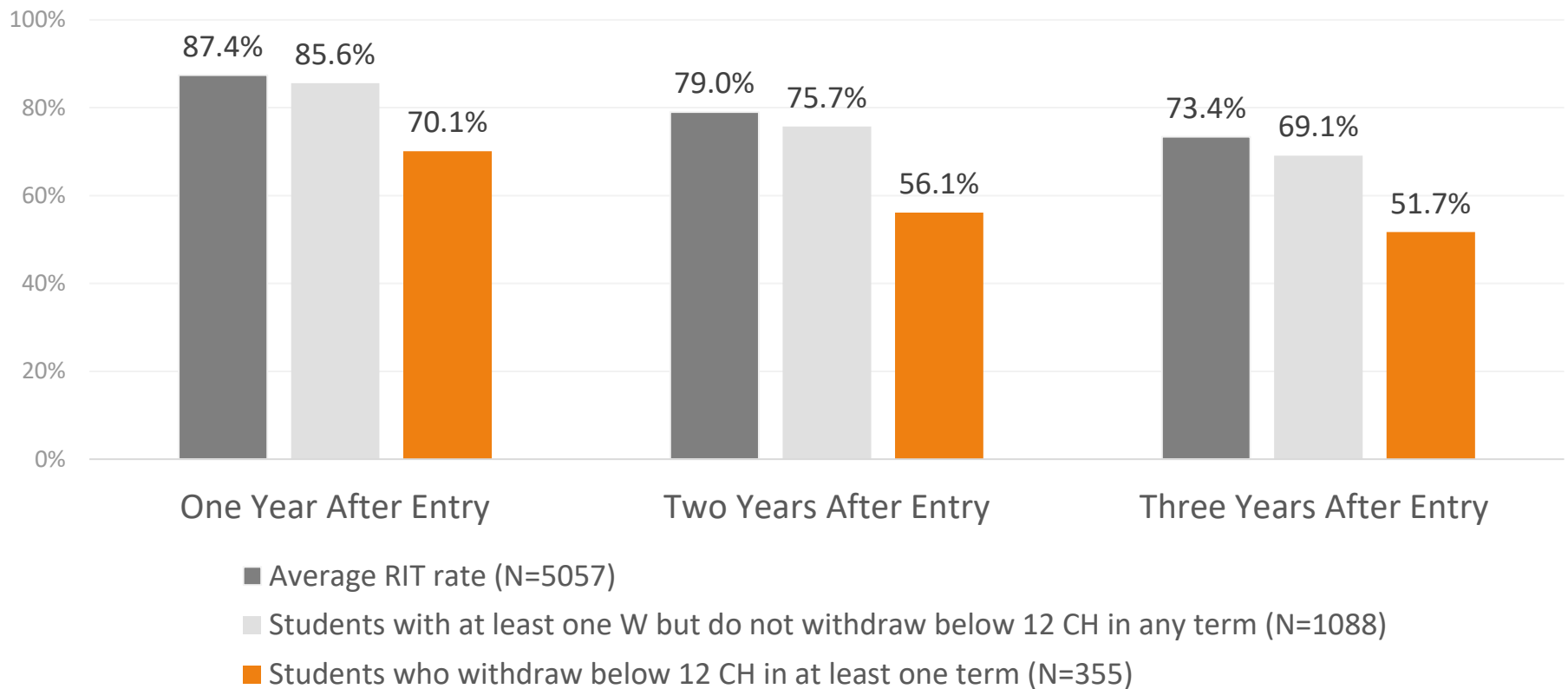
- Reviewed policies for 21 benchmark schools identified by Human Resources.

- Narrowed the comparisons to 11 larger, more comprehensive competitive universities. Nearly all have limits on course withdrawals in their policies.

- Of the 11 universities:
  - 7 require a signature for course withdrawal.
  - 5 have credit limits for course withdrawals.
  - *Compare this to RIT's policy which has relatively no requirements for withdrawal before week 11.*

- The deadline to withdraw at benchmark schools varies, but most common are weeks 9 through 12.

RIT COURSE WITHDRAWAL DATA

- Approximately 18% of full time degree seeking undergraduate students withdraw from one or more courses in a term.

- The majority of students who withdraw still maintain a full credit load for that term.

- However, approximately 4% of full time degree seeking undergraduate students (or about 500 students per term) withdraw and fall below 12 credit hours.

- Data show persistence for students withdrawing below full-time status is significantly lower than that for students who do not.

- The issue is not that we allow students to withdraw; the issue is students who withdraw and fall below 12 credit hours. We need to set some limits on the currently liberal policy.

PERSISTENCE RATES OF FIRST YEAR UG WITHDRAWAL BEHAVIOR

Average Persistence Rates for First Year Behavior*

	One Year After Entry	Two Years After Entry	Three Years After Entry
Average RIT rate (N=5057)	87.4%	79.0%	73.4%
Students with at least one W but do not withdraw below 12 CH in any term (N=1088)	85.6%	75.7%	69.1%
Students who withdraw below 12 CH in at least one term (N=355)	70.1%	56.1%	51.7%

■ Average RIT rate (N=5057)

■ Students with at least one W but do not withdraw below 12 CH in any term (N=1088)

■ Students who withdraw below 12 CH in at least one term (N=355)

*Data includes 2013 and 2014 first year, full time, bachelor degree seeking, main campus cohort students who were enrolled in credit bearing courses. Students who took a leave of absence within the first two years were excluded.

FEEDBACK FROM UNIVERSITY CONSTITUENTS

- Faculty
  - Focus Groups
  - Graduate Council
  - Associate Deans Council
  - Academic Affairs Committee of Academic Senate
- Students
  - Academics & Co-Ops Committee of Student Government
  - Student Government Senate: *voted to endorse proposal*
- Staff
  - Advisors Council
  - Deans' Delegates for Advising
  - Staff Council
- Cross Constituents
  - Student Success Steering Committee

CONSENSUS AMONG CONSTITUENTS

- Change needed
- Begin with under full time status & part time students
- Continue to examine data
- Propose additional changes in future

SUMMARY OF BENEFITS (UG)

Students:

- Ensures informed decisions
- Prevents jeopardizing status

Academic Departments:

- Allows departments to assist students
- Provides insight into curriculum challenges

University:

- Aligns with federal financial aid SAP
- Aligns with requirements for NCAA & International
- Aligns with best practices
- Supports culture of graduation

DISCUSSION/NEXT STEPS

- Modifications to policy reflect conceptual rationale that we have provided.

- Prior to request to academic leadership, student will be expected to have conversation with academic advisor to discuss withdrawal implications, alternate options, and recommended interventions/resources.

- Training for department leadership and advisors will be necessary.

QUESTIONS?