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Sophomore Perspectives: Is IWU Meeting Their Expectations?

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Oral Presentation O5.3

SOPHOMORE PERSPECTIVES: IS IWU MEETING THEIR EXPECTATIONS?

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Illinois Wesleyan University is a private liberal arts institution that fosters a small community atmosphere. This includes the expectation that students are recognized by name and not just by an identification number. Conversations with various Student Affairs staff led to the realization that during the sophomore year there is diminishing contact with fellow students and with the student affairs and academic affairs personnel. Student Affairs personnel are concerned that this change from their First Year Experience could result in sophomore attrition. Because IWU takes pride in its ability to serve students as individuals, there remains a concern about the number of people that leave IWU as sophomores.

This study investigates the sophomore perspective about IWU. Data were collected from three different sources: student surveys, comments obtained during a class dinner, and exiting students' comments to a questionnaire. Information from these various sources helped to identify the expectations of sophomores and the extent to which these expectations were met. Analyzing these information would help to gain insight into why sophomores are not remaining at IWU for their junior year. Initial results show that IWU's resources meet the expectations of sophomores, but the university needs to address two critical areas: academic environment and student security.