A Report on the Student Success and Retention Council

2014-2015 and 2015-2016 Academic Years

Spring 2016

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Since it’s re-organization in Spring 2014 from the Retention Committee to the Student Success and Retention Council, the SSRC has met monthly or bi-monthly throughout the calendar year in order to fulfill its charge to:

* Undertake on-going study of the retention and graduation/program-completion of students at UCA
* Report data on the retention and graduation/program completion of students at UCA to the provost, president, board of trustees, and other campus stakeholders
* Research best practices in increasing retention and graduation/program-completion rates
* Propose specific action steps to increase retention and graduation/program-completion rates at UCA
* Oversee the implementation of approved action steps to increase retention and graduation/program-completion rates
* Assess the success of these implementations

Each meeting of the SSRC has included opportunities for members to become familiar with and/or review existing retention/success campus programs from across the university (including Mapworks, tutoring, academic advising, residential colleges, first-year seminars, B-MAC, SOAR, welcome week, supplemental instruction, summer start, peer counselors, and others) through invited presentations and information provided by SSRC members. In addition, reports from the Office of Institutional Research on student enrollment and retention data, as well as efforts to incorporate predictive analytics and other methods into the University’s retention efforts, are also provided on a regular basis. Some of the specific tasks completed and issues addressed during AY 2015 and AY 2016 have included:

* Completion of a draft of “Guiding Principles” on student success for the campus (posted for campus review and finalized Fall 2014; see [www.uca.edu/ssrc](http://www.uca.edu/ssrc)). These Guiding Principles were also incorporated in the 2016 Strategic Plan.
* Review of a proposed Peer Success Coaching program as presented by Housing & Residence Life and the Office of Student Success (piloted Spring 2015; on-going)
* Sending of a team to the HLC workshop on Student Persistence and Completion, with the objectives of (1) promoting UCA cross-divisional collaboration (2) working on a real project for our campus and (3) helping to determine whether future participation in the Academy would be a good investment of our time and resources (Fall 2014)
* Review of existing Enrollment Management (Retention) Plan, leading to a restructuring of the plan’s format, identification of overall goals and specific strategies by SSRC subgroups, and a schedule for annual review of items included in the plan (to be implemented Fall 2016)
* Discussion of the need for better data collection on first-generation and low-income students, particularly in relation to federal grant applications, and recommended changes to UCA’s undergraduate application for admission to allow such collection (implemented Fall 2015)
* Revisions to membership of the SSRC (currently in the approval process)
* On-going review of UCA’s Strategic Planning Process and the possible role SSRC might play under the new plan (Fall 2015, Spring 2016)
* Presentations to SSRC on ADHE’s Master Plan process, and discussion of how this might impact UCA (Spring 2016)
* Discussion of the Guided Pathways program, and how this could be implemented at UCA (Spring 2016)

SSRC Membership: <http://uca.edu/ssrc/membership/>