PROPOSAL: STUDENT SUCCESS AND RETENTION COUNCIL

The Office of the Provost proposes a redesign of the existing Retention Committee as the Student Success and Retention Council. The redesigned Student Success and Retention Council will serve as a “steering committee” and representative body and will be responsible for the entire retention-programming lifecycle.

The redesign recommends several changes to the existing committee, intended to improve the efficacy and efficiency of the teams work and, therefore, to improve student success and retention at UCA in significant ways. Substantive changes may be summarized as follows:

* Membership: Membership will be (1) more balanced and broadly representative and (2) appointment will be by position without rotating members to improve continuity and follow-through.
* Chairpersonship: The Provost and VPAA will chair the council emphasizing the gravity of its decision-making and the importance and viability of proposed courses of action.
* Timeliness and charge: The redesigned group will focus its energies on timely, data-informed action.

PROPOSED COUNCIL

Charge: The Student Success and Retention Council undertakes on-going study of the retention and graduation/program completion of students at UCA; reports data on the retention and graduation/program completion of students at UCA to the president, board of trustees, and other campus stakeholders; researches best practices in increasing retention and graduation/program completion rates; proposes specific action steps to increase retention and graduation/program completion rates at UCA; oversees the implementation of approved action steps to increase retention and graduation rates; and assesses the success of these implementations.

Membership: The Council includes the following members: Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (chair), Faculty Senate president, Staff Senate president, Student Government Association president, Faculty Senate vice-president, the Director of Housing and Residence Life, the Director of the Academic Advising Center, the Vice President for Student Services or designee, the Director of Student Financial Aid, the Director of Institutional Research, the Director of the Office of Student Success, the Director of the Counseling Center, and the Associate Provost for Assessment and Enrollment Support.

Meetings: at least monthly

Reports to: president

EXISTING COMMITTEE

Charge: To serve as an advisory group to the president regarding retention issues. More specifically, the committee is charged with researching retention issues nationally and on campus, informing the president of key issues, and making recommendations regarding possible response options to the issues.

Membership: Eight faculty members appointed by the Faculty Senate for rotating four-year terms (one representative from each of the six colleges, one representative from among faculty who teach exemplary studies students, and one representative from among faculty who teach transitional studies students); one representative from student services; director of student activities; director of affirmative action; the director of institutional research; the director of counseling center; the director of housing; one representative from the office of admissions. Committee chair is appointed by the president.

Meetings: on call

Reports to: president