UCA Core Update

1) Assessment
    a. For the academic year 2015-2016, all Lower Division (LD) Core courses will be assessed.
        i. Instructors will use the current Core rubrics located here:
           http://uca.edu/core/assessment/
        ii. They will fill out the relevant data collection sheet(s), and electronically submit them to their departmental liaison. The process, data collection sheets, and a list of liaisons can be located here: http://uca.edu/core/assessment/
        iii. To assist in the process, all faculty are being asked to participate in a short, self-guided on-line training session via Blackboard, for each area of the LD Core in which they teach. An initial email was sent out early this semester. A reminder was just sent with the procedure for enrolling in these courses. In addition, Chairs and liaisons have been reminded several times to verify that faculty are enrolling in and completing these courses.
    b. The Core Council created an "Assessment" Sub-Committee

       Charge: To design and articulate an efficient and effective means for collecting  and reporting assessment data  for the UCA Core.

       This committee is charged with recommending a methodology for collecting and reporting assessment data for the UCA Core, as well as determining the best means by which to secure compliance.

       Expectations: 1) That a strategy for effectively and efficiently assessing student learning outcomes in the UCA Core according to the assessment rubrics adopted by the UCA Core will be developed and ready for implementation by Fall of 2016. 2) That measures will be determined and clearly articulated to ensure compliance from all providers within the UCA Core, including but not limited to removal of programs or courses from the Core for repeated failure to comply with assessment procedures.

       Membership: 1 Representative from each of the 6 colleges with 1 at-large representative. Kurt Boniecki (as Director of Assessment) sits ex-officio.  (for a total of 8 members) In addition, two consultants with relevant expertise in assessment and statistics will be named in the future, and subject to approval of the sub-committee.

        i. This sub-committee since named its Chair: Dr. Jim Downey  (Chair of MIS)
2) Advising
    a. Faculty need to be better trained how to advise students and make efforts to keep themselves informed about Core requirements as they advise students. As Core director I've been meeting with the Academic Advising Center, as well as individual departments across campus to make sure everyone is up to speed on Core requirements, using degreeworks, and advising in the UCA Core. Relevant handouts can be located here: http://uca.edu/core/checksheet/

b. Given that many students are caught in transition between old gen ed, new UCA Core, as well as the added problem that Upper Division core courses had been in development until Spring 2015, in consultation with The Provost, the Registrar's Office, Academic Advising, as well as other stakeholders we have decided that for the current academic year we will audit graduation applications according to the following guidelines: 1) Students on the 2013-2014 bulletin, or earlier, although in the UCA Core will not be audited for the UD Core requirements. 2) All students on the 2014-2015 bulletin will be audited for the UD Core requirements. 3) Exceptional cases will be referred to the director of the UCA Core and audited according to his discretion.

3) Curriculum
   a. New curriculum forms are in place and located here: [http://uca.edu/core/forms/](http://uca.edu/core/forms/)
   b. We will resume the process of adding/removing courses in the UCA Core this Fall.

**Summary Statement**: The UCA Core is in place. We have more than adequate numbers of courses in the LD and UD core to allow students who enter UCA to complete the Core program, while satisfying degree requirements in 4 years and 120 credit hours. Academic Advising has Academic Maps (AMAPS) that fully integrate the Core into student plans. The Core is in place. We are now moving to focus on assessment and fine tuning. The re-opened curriculum process will allow us to fine tune the Core by adding and removing courses to reflect need and appropriate fit within the program. Assessment has to begin this Fall. However, a comprehensive assessment plan was not determined when the Core was put in place, nor has there been a committed Director of Assessment administrative position in place to develop and implement a procedure to assess the UCA Core. Therefore, in order to collect the needed data in an effective way we put in place the most efficient method we had available to us at this time to begin the process of acculturation to assessment and data collection. But this is a Beta Test. Assessment this academic year is about building faculty awareness of and familiarity with assessing Core courses, as well as locating areas where corrections can be implemented to make the process less cumbersome, more efficient , and effective. This is the role of the sub-committee on assessment.

Implementing the UCA Core is a massive undertaking, but we have successfully put in place a full complement of Core courses, assessment rubrics for the Core, training modules for faculty to learn how to interpret, use, and report on these assessment rubrics, and an assessment procedure to collect data campus wide. We have coordinated with advising to develop Academic Maps for all programs reflecting the core, trained all advisors on advising in the new UCA Core, and worked with the registrar to develop a policy to assist students as they matriculate through their programs during this transitional phase. The Core is in place, and now we can begin to focus on improvement.