

Student Success & Retention Council

June 15, 2017

The Student Success and Retention Council (SSRC) met in regular session at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 15, 2017. Provost Steve Runge (chair) presided, and the following individuals were present: Taine Duncan, Brandon Combs, Brittany Daubenheyer (attending in the absence of Courtney Bryant), Stephanie McBrayer, Amy Baldwin, Amber Hall, Cheryl Lyons, Leigh Ann DenHartog, Patricia Smith, Ryan Pfaff, Julia Winden-Fey, John Fincher, Jacob Held, Nancy Gallavan, Angela Webster, Susan Sobel, and President Houston Davis.

- 1) President Houston Davis addressed the group and spoke about the Student Success and Retention Plan that he received earlier in the week.
- 2) The SSRC minutes of the March 16, 2017 and April 20, 2017 meetings were considered and approved with J. Winden-Fey and R. Pfaff abstaining.
- 3) J. Winden-Fey provided the Council with a draft resolution for the creation of a First-Year Experience subcommittee to evaluate data and make a recommendation to the full SSRC about what students need in their first year as a college student. Discussion followed. S. Runge asked that the Council send ideas for potential additional subcommittees to Alicia Crow for discussion in the July meeting. A motion to approve the resolution was made and seconded. The resolution was unanimously approved.
- 4) S. Runge led a discussion about the newest version of the Student Success and Retention Plan. The Council reviewed the plan and suggested two additions. A motion to approve the document, as amended, was made and seconded. The Council voted to approve the document. A copy of the final version will be provided to President Davis for final approval.
- 5) Provost's Announcements:
 - The next SSRC meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.
- 6) Member Reports:
 - J. Fincher announced that UCA has been awarded \$210,000 as a part of the Great Lakes Dash Grant. The university will receive \$50,000 per semester for use in unexpected personal student emergencies.

- L.A. DenHartog stated that the Advising Center is currently seeing freshmen students. They have had a full advising schedule this week and have a full schedule next week, as well.
- L.A. DenHartog stated that she encourages faculty to shadow an advisor. She would like to have Faculty Shadowing as a Professional Development opportunity for both faculty and department chairs.
- P. Smith stated that she will be working with a committee of faculty for a University Honors program that will coexist with the Honors College over the next year.
- S. Sobel stated that the Counseling Center is still seeing students during the summer.
- R. Pfaff mentioned that at the upcoming Student Government Association Retreat they will discuss projects that have been completed and projects for the future. He is looking forward to a productive senate this year.
- J. Fincher stated that the Staff Senate approved the reading group funds for SSRC. With those funds, they were able to purchase two copies of each of the six books. The books will be housed in John's office until a better location is chosen. S. Runge offered for his office to purchase two additional copies of each book so that there are enough copies for everyone on the Council to check out a book at the same time.
- J. Winden-Fey provided the Council with a brochure handout titled *UCA Student Support Guide*. These brochures will be provided to parents at SOAR. She asked that the Council review the brochure and provide any feedback to her by 12:00 p.m. on Monday, June 19.
- J. Winden-Fey announced that Vicky Wyeth, the daytime Tutoring Center supervisor, is retiring this month. Her position will be filled by Steve Mills who is currently the evening supervisor. A search is being conducted to fill the evening supervisor vacancy.
- J. Held stated that the FYS Peer Mentor program is continuing and that at least 11 students have signed up to be mentors for this fall.
- J. Held mentioned that the curriculum has been developed for the FYS recognition track for the fall. This program will be coordinated through the Center for Teaching Excellence.
- J. Held stated that he has had a conversation with David Williams about getting military credit classes to count towards their degree. They are working together to make the process easier for our students.
- H. Davis stated that the University of Arkansas is 15-16 points ahead of UCA in graduation rates. He would like to close that gap.
- A. Webster stated that the Annual ADHE Minority Recruitment and Retention Report is currently being prepared.

- A. Webster stated that the Amigo Cup will now be known as Amigo Fest. This will be a celebration on September 30.
- A. Webster announced that her office is advertising for a Latino Outreach Coordinator.
- T. Duncan reported that, beginning this fall, the Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, and SGA Presidents will plan regular meetings at Blue Sail Coffee where they will be available to anyone wanting to meet with them. The purpose is to show that the three bodies are coordinating and collaborating together.
- B. Combs announced the President Davis approved the new Co-Curricular & Support Unit committee.
- B. Combs stated that the Office of Assessment is working on an RFP for a course evaluation system.
- B. Combs stated that he and J. Held just returned from the Association for the Assessment of Learning in Higher Education (AALHE) conference and that it was a beneficial conference to attend.
- B. Daubenheyer stated that the Office of Admissions is currently contacting incoming freshmen to schedule registration meetings.
- S. McBrayer stated that Move-In Day is in 66 days.
- S. McBrayer stated that Housing is working on fall assignments.
- S. McBrayer reported that there are currently four position openings in Housing.
- A. Baldwin stated that there is now a mobile app for the CTC study. There have been 676 downloads. The app is better able to track participation than the web-based system used previously.
- A. Hall stated that Institutional Research is currently working on Productivity Funding.
- C. Lyons stated that Financial Aid is staying caught up and is notifying students of their awards.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.