Admissions Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2015

In attendance: Jane Ann Williams (Chair), LeighAnn Denhartog, Mike Scoles, Polly Walter, Phillip Spivey, Don Perry, Karen Haas, Lisa Christman, Lauren Maxwell

Absent: Becky Rasnick

Guest: Amber Hall

*Business discussed at the meeting centered on aligning the parameters of traditional and non-traditional students with state standards, and reviewing ACT sub-scores for conditionally admitted traditional students.*

The committee reviewed and discussed data provided by IR on the impact of ACT sub-scores on graduation rates. L. Christman asked members to consider that tuition received from lower performing students who do not graduate, impacts their economic future, because they do not qualify UCA scholarships, take out loans, and incur student debt. If we raise sub-scores to exclude these students, UCA may lose tuition dollars. In addition to issues with persistence, students with an ACT score of 16 or lower in Math or Reading are currently required to take two semesters of remediation.

JA Williams shared that Institutional Research has developed a predictive analytic (other than just ACT scores) that will identify with 80% accuracy the at-risk students during the admissions recruiting process.

* L. Christman shared that predicting at-risk students would help target entering freshmen students for the summer bridge programs.

M. Scoles asked that before the committee recommends raising the ACT sub-scores, that they consider the impact it will have on student diversity.

* Hall responded to M. Scoles by stating rasing ACR- sub-scores may have an impact on entering freshmen numbers, but not on the diversity of the overall graduation rates among diverse students. Hall will provide additional data on impact of scores on diversity.

JA Williams said implementing retention programs, early identification of at-risk students and raising the age classification of students will positively impact and likely improve the graduation rates.

L. Christman informed members that all conditionally admitted freshman will be required to take UNIV 1100 beginning Fall 2015.

D. Perry asked for additional data on how many students we would have lost in 2013-14 if the ACT sub-scores had been raised to 15 or 16. Hall will provide this data at the next meeting.

The committee discussed raising the ACT sub-score from 10 to 15 or higher as an admission requirement for traditional students for Fall 2016. Seven members were in agreement, one member opposed.

L. Denhartog indicated that the number of students between 21 and 25 applying as first time students has increase. Currently, UCA defines Non-traditional students as 21 or older. The State defines students Non-traditional students as 25 or older. The committee discussed the current requirements for non-traditional student admissions: high school degree or GED. No minimum GPA, Compass test scores, ACT or SAT scores are currently required. Following discussion, the committee unanimously agreed to define the age of Traditional Students as 20 or younger and Non-traditional students as 21 or older.

After agreeing to change the ages of traditional and non-traditional students to align with Arkansas standards, and raising sub-scores from 10 to 15 or higher, the committee discussed GPA. The committee members agreed not to change the GPA at this time. The GPA admission requirement would remain at 2.30 for traditional freshman.

The next Admissions Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 16th at 1:00 pm in Wingo Hall 214.

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