A Report on the Student Success and Retention Council

2015-2016 and Fall 2016

Submitted by: Dr. Steven Runge, SSRC Chair

*[Because the Senate request for a report on AY 2015 was omitted last year, a report was not presented until March 2016 and therefore included much of AY 2016 as well. As such, this report overlaps with the previous report.]*

A campus-wide representative body, the SSRC continues to seek improved methods and practices for ensuring that UCA students have their best chance for success, both academically and personally.

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

Re-organized in Spring 2014 from the Retention Committee to the Student Success and Retention Council, the SSRC continues to meet monthly or bi-monthly as needed 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 and report on them annually

Specific tasks and undertakings of the Council during AY 2016 and Summer 2016 included:

* Providing recommendations and conceptual material on student retention and success measures to the members of the Strategic Planning and Task Force Obligations & Promise Subcommittee for the University Strategic Plan developed in 2015-2016
* Reviewing the ADHE Master Plan 2020 “Closing the Gap”
* Discussing the findings of a team site visit to University of Northern Iowa regarding their First Year Seminar Peer Mentor Program, and exploring implementation of a pilot program at UCA *[implemented Fall 2016]*
* Examining strategies for improving the persistence and academic success rates of UCA’s black male population
* Developing a pilot Student Success Challenge program and scholarship *[implemented Fall 2016]*
  + *See: uca.edu/studentsuccess/student-success-challenge*
* Compiling and reviewing the [*Enrollment Management Plan Retention Report 2016*](http://uca.edu/ssrc/files/2016/08/em-retention-plan-report-ay2016.pdf)

Additionally, council members utilize each meeting to share updates on upcoming programs and events, and to discuss needs in their respective units. Council sessions serve as venues for collaboration as much they do forums for familiarizing members with state and national trends and developments.