

A Report on the Student Success and Retention Council Spring 2017-Fall 2017

Submitted to Faculty Senate by: Dr. Michael Hargis, SSRC Chair

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

SSRC met a total of 9 times between January and November 2017. Specific tasks and undertakings of the Council during Spring, Summer, and Fall 2017 included:

- Reviewing and finalizing the initial draft of a campus Student Success and Retention Plan developed by the SSRC representatives. SSRC members spent much of the Spring 2017 semester revising this document. It is intended to be a “living” document for use by the entire campus in assessing and implementing services and programs designed to aid students in persisting and being successful. The SSRC will continue to monitor and adjust the specific strategies and initiatives outlined in the document in cooperation with responsible units, and in accord with the University’s Strategic Plan. The June 2017 document is located at: <http://uca.edu/ssrc/files/2017/07/student-success-and-retention-plan-2017.pdf>
- Assessing and revising the June 2017 draft of the SSRP in cooperation with responsible units throughout the Fall 2017 semester. This is on-going. An updated version of the SSRP should be completed by the end of Spring 2018.
- Overseeing the on-going Student Success Challenge program and scholarship, which was started Fall 2016. Although the program continued in Spring 2017 and Fall 2017, it has been discontinued for Spring 2018 due to low student participation. *See: uca.edu/studentssuccess/student-success-challenge*
- Approved support for a proposed change of name and mission for University College
- Approved a proposal to establish a “First Year Experience” subcommittee of the SSRC charged with reviewing current practices and outcomes at UCA, and outlining needs or changes for future years. A subcommittee report will be submitted Spring 2018.

Additionally, council members utilized each meeting to:

- share updates on upcoming programs and events
- discuss needs in their respective units
- collaborate on upcoming events and projects

- familiarize members with state and national trends and developments
- receive updates from and provide input to UCA administration on relevant issues

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