



President's Communiqué

Dr. Ken Kitts

July 26, 2016

Colleagues: Where does the summer go? It's hard to believe that we will be into fall semester classes this time next month. Campus is already beginning to get busy – a function of both SOAR sessions and the Pokémon craze. Please see below for my summary of current issues and developments at UNA.

Enrollment and Budget: We are tracking enrollment with vigor, and thanks to the data freezes we implemented last year now have better point-to-point data with which to gauge our progress as we head toward fall semester. Current indicators are all positive. Our best guess is that we are looking at an increase in both new student enrollment and overall enrollment for Fall 2016. Well over half of the university's budget is dependent on enrollment, and our planning for FY 17 is based on a projected 3.1% enrollment increase over the previous year. Interestingly, the projected increase in credit hour production is stronger than for headcount enrollment, which indicates a positive trend in favor of students taking a greater number of hours. The extent to which we meet or exceed our enrollment goal will determine how much latitude we have with expenses for the upcoming year. If sufficient funds are available, I will ask our budget officers to continue to include a cost of living adjustment as one of our recommendations for FY 17.

Personnel: Mr. Ron Patterson began his service as Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management on July 15. At my invitation, Ron will sit as a member of the Executive Council to ensure that enrollment issues continue to receive priority attention in the decision-making process. Ms. Carol Lyles has announced that she will retire as Director of Alumni Relations effective December 31, 2016. I know you join me in thanking Carol for her many years of dedicated service to UNA. VP Debbie Shaw will begin a search for Carol's successor very soon.

Dining Services: The new team from Compass/Chartwells is now fully in place and already performing at a very high level. During the transition to this new provider, we were able to accommodate most of the existing dining staff who indicated a preference to remain at UNA. The implementation of the full plan to transform the dining experience will take all of this upcoming academic year and into the following fall, but with each month our faculty, staff, students, and guests should see enhancements.

Changes in Smoking Policy: The UNA Board of Trustees has approved a resolution authorizing a move to make UNA a smoke-free campus by August 2017. VP David Shields has convened an ad hoc group to work on details of the new policy and to implement transitional steps including preparation of new signage, an educational campaign that includes cessation assistance, and the restriction of smoking to designated outdoor areas as a prelude to becoming fully smoke-free. As promised, we will use the 2016-2017 academic year to work within the shared governance system on details of the new policy with the goal of completing the transition by Fall 2017.

Facilities: The move of current tenants out of the Keystone Business Centre is on schedule and proceeding well. Our goal is to move the HES Department into Keystone at end of fall semester and then begin demolition of Floyd Hall shortly thereafter in order to make room for the new building that will house the College of Nursing.

Honorary Degree: On June 13, the UNA Board of Trustees approved a motion to award an honorary doctorate to music producer and FAME Studio owner Rick Hall at the December commencement ceremony. We have opted to release this information earlier than usual to dovetail with other music-related events such as the W.C. Handy Festival and the summer theatre production of *I'll Take You There: The Music of Muscle Shoals*.

Convocation: Convocation will be held in Norton Auditorium at 9am on August 31. Our speaker this year will be UNA alumnus and former NFL football player Evan Oglesby.

Important Dates:

- Aug 5 Payment Deadline for Pre-Registered Students
- Aug 11 Registration and Drop/Add Opens
- Aug 18 Freshman Move-In, Olive Hall (3-7pm)
- Aug 19 Freshman Move-In, Mattielou, Rivers, and Lafayette Halls (10am-2pm)
- Aug 20 Returning Student Move-In
- Aug 22 New Student Advising and Registration (8:30am, GUC)
- Aug 23 Faculty/Staff Meeting (1:30pm, Norton Auditorium)
- Aug 24 Fall Classes Begin
- Aug 31 Convocation (9am, Norton Auditorium)

From our family to yours, we thank you for all you do and hope that you enjoy the remainder of your summer. See you soon!