



President's Communiqué
Dr. Ken Kitts
September 7, 2016

With fall semester now well underway, I wish to take this opportunity to provide an update on enrollment and key personnel transitions at UNA.

Enrollment and Budget: The trend line for fall enrollment continues to be very positive, and we have every reason to be optimistic as we look ahead to census date on September 15. We are currently holding at over 7,520 total headcount. That number could decrease with the second and final purge for non-payment later this week. However, it is likely that any change at this point will be modest, and the officers closest to our enrollment effort feel confident that we will have at least 7,400 students when all is said and done. That compares favorably with last fall's headcount of 7,078 and places us in position to set a new enrollment record. The previous "high water mark" was 7,323 in 2007. This is great news for UNA! As percentages go, our increase in headcount is running slightly ahead of the increase in credit hour production, but both gains are very impressive. I have notified the Board of Trustees that we will make our budgetary target for enrollment growth this fall. We will use that as a basis for requesting final Board approval of our budget for FY 17.

Personnel: Dr. John Thornell has informed me of his desire to step down as provost and return to the teaching ranks at the end of this academic year. Accordingly, we will need to begin a search soon to identify his successor as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. We will find an appropriate time later this year to thank Dr. Thornell for his many years of dedicated service to UNA.

In the Division of Business and Financial Affairs, Clinton Carter has left UNA to work on Governor Bentley's staff in Montgomery. We wish him the best with this new position. In his place, Evan Thornton is serving as Acting Chief Financial Officer while we wrap up the fiscal year, finalize the budget for FY 17, and look ahead to a search to identify the next VP for Business and Financial Affairs. Evan is an experienced budget officer. A certified public accountant, he came to UNA last year as Controller and has worked previously for the City of Athens and Athens State University.

Facilities: The Board of Trustees has formally approved the naming of the UNA College of Nursing for the Anderson family who has given so generously in support of the new facility on which construction will begin next spring. You can expect to see the Anderson College of Nursing listed as the correct designation for that academic unit in our press releases, brochures, and marketing pieces. At its meeting next week, our Board will consider a related proposal to name the new Nursing building for another donor who, like the Andersons, has helped to bring this project along through a very generous gift.