UNIT-LEVEL CONTRIBUTIONS TO STUDENT SUCCESS AND THE STRATEGIC ENROLLMENT PLAN*

*Updated 9/18/18 to reflect census outcomes. Internal use only.
MEET OUR NEW VOLUNTEERS
FALL 2018
SEP: YEAR 1 OUTCOMES

New Vols: By the Numbers

5215 NEW FRESHMAN
- ACT Mid-50%: 25-30
- AVG GPA: 3.97
- 19.6% URM
- 76.5% TN / 22.6% OOS / .8% INT

1333 NEW TRANSFERS
- AVG Transfer GPA: 3.09
- 18.2% URM
- 86.7% TN / 12.4% OOS / .9% INT

206 VOLUNTEER BRIDGE
- AVG ACT: 22
- 30% URM
- 65.7% TN / 32.9% OOS / .1% INT
SEP: YEAR 1 PROJECTED OUTCOMES

Student Success: Retention & Graduation

86.8% FTF 1st YR Retention

82.5% FTT 1st YR Retention

51.1% 4YR Grad Rate

72.5% 6YR Grad Rate
STUDENT SUCCESS: BELONGING, COMPLETING, SUCCEEDING
STUDENT SUCCESS GOALS: RETENTION

Why is increasing first-year retention important to UTK?

1. Students
   It’s the right thing to do

2. Completion
   UTK loses more students in the first year than at any other time

3. Strategic Enrollment Plan / Growth
   Recruitment is increasingly competitive; retention is necessary for growth

4. Resources
   A 1% increase in retention is an estimated $600K in tuition

5. Rankings / Competition
   Retention is often a component in national rankings methodologies
A student success summit engaged nearly 100 faculty, staff, administrators, and students to propose ideas for action.

Six Big Ideas – Themes from the Student Success Summit

1. Early in the semester, identify and support students who may be struggling

2. Create a consistent first-year experience

3. Improve completion rates in gateway courses

4. Help students maintain HOPE scholarship eligibility

5. Build community through a mattering and belonging campaign

6. Engage faculty and staff in a culture that supports student success
RETENTION ACTION PLAN

The retention action plan builds on the six big ideas from the summit.

*Belonging, Completing, Succeeding: Retention Action Plan for 2018-19
Collaboration between Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Colleges*

Six Initiatives

1. Early Alert / Academic Case Management
2. The First Year Experience
3. Course Completion / Finish Strong
4. HOPE Scholarship Protection
5. Mattering and Belonging Campaign
6. Faculty and Staff Engagement
YEAR ONE ACTIONS

• HOPE Protection and HOPE Recovery
  - Proactive advising and student success interventions for HOPE retention
  - Replacing lost HOPE scholarships with institutional aid for students “on the bubble”

• Advising 2020 Investments
  - Foundation for Finish Strong and HOPE Protection campaigns

• Early Alert
  - Expanded Early Alert window for key gateway courses with high non-completion rates
  - Partnership with Residence Life staff

• Academic Affairs / Student Life Partnership
YEAR ONE PROGRESS REPORT

• Increased Fall-to-Spring Persistence
  - 95.6% of Fall 2017 first-time, full-time students returned in Spring 2018
  - 1 percentage point higher than for Fall 2016 first-time, full-time students

• Record Low Academic Probation Rate (Fall Semester Below 2.0 GPA)
  - 8.4% of first-time, full-time students enrolled in Fall 2017 on probation
  - 1.8 percentage points lower than for Fall 2016

• Record High Levels of Faculty Participation in Early Alert
  - 85% faculty participation in AY 2017-18
  - 35 percentage points higher than for AY 2016-17

• Fall 2017 retention rate = 86.8%
  - Highest retention rate ever
  - Compares to 85.5% for Fall 2016
YEAR TWO KICKOFF

• **Student Success Summit (September 2018)**
  - Incorporate unit-level contributions to the Big Six initiatives

_Six Initiatives_

1. Early Alert / Academic Case Management
2. The First Year Experience
3. Course Completion / Finish Strong
4. HOPE Scholarship Protection
5. Mattering and Belonging Campaign
6. Faculty and Staff Engagement

• **Prime the Pump!**
  - Identify your unit’s contributions to the Big Six initiatives
GROUP DISCUSSION

“That sounds hard, can’t somebody else do it?”

Retention Invention Donkey:
What’s your wish for retention and student success?
RETENTION GAPS

Overall first-time first-year (FTF) retention rate
- Actual for Fall 2016 cohort: 85.5%
- Actual for Fall 2017 cohort: 86.8% (+1.3%)

URM first-time first-year retention rate
- Actual for Fall 2016 cohort: 82.2%
- Estimated for Fall 2017 cohort: 84.3% (+2.1%) (−2.5% vs overall)

First-generation first-time first-year retention rate
- Actual for Fall 2016 cohort: 79.0%
- Estimated for Fall 2017 cohort: 80.8% (+1.8%) (−6.0% vs overall)

Overall first-time transfer retention rate
- Actual for Fall 2016 cohort: 81.1%
- Estimated for Fall 2017 cohort: 82.5% (+1.4%) (−4.3% vs FTF)
Student Success & Engagement At Every Stage

Student Onboarding / New Vol Experience

- Share effective ways your unit/department supports the onboarding/New Vol experience.
- Brainstorm new opportunities and ideas to improve and impact the experience.
- Focus on a subpopulation.

Student Success / The Volunteer Experience

- Share effective ways your unit/department supports student success and graduation.
- Brainstorm new opportunities and ideas to increase student success and graduation rates.
- Focus on a subpopulation.

Lifetime Achievement and Engagement / VFL

- Share effective ways your unit/department supports graduates’ lifelong connection to the institution.
- Brainstorm new opportunities and ideas to engage alumni and and celebrate their success.
- Focus on a subpopulation.
QUESTIONS?

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