

President's Communiqué
Dr. Ken Kitts
September 28, 2018

Colleagues: Please see below for updates on developments and activities of interest to our campus community.

Enrollment: Census for fall semester will not occur until October 31 in order to accommodate late registrations in the new eight-week sessions. While we will not know the final tally until that date, I can tell you that our numbers are strong. As of yesterday,

second year of Project 208, and we are exploring options to supplement state support with other public funding from local and federal sources. Our bottom line is stark: we are \$25 million below average in annual funding among our sister institutions in Alabama, which makes it very difficult to plan a budget and meet the many needs that exist across campus. To illustrate the point, we recently announced a COLA for employees that will begin on December 1. We used this same start date for the last COLA in 2016. Deferring the rollout of the salary adjustment from October 1 to December 1 provides \$250,000 in one-time savings that will be used to address critical maintenance and facility repair issues across campus. Similar balancing acts occur almost daily – and all of these tough decisions trace back to the lack of funding equity for UNA.

Commencement Ticketing: We recently announced plans to move toward a ticketing system for the winter commencement ceremonies on December 15. Key factors in this determination include the record number of students that we expect to graduate this year, the continual increase in audience size, and the reduction in seating capacity as a result of renovations now underway in Flowers Hall. Those of you who have attended recent commencement ceremonies will recall that overflow crowds have become the rule rather than the exception. We have to find a way to manage this event more effectively to ensure the safety and comfort of all attendees. At the same time, we understand that change of this type is never easy. We are engaged in