

President's Communiqué

Dr. Ken Kitts

February 14, 2017

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

Enrollment Census date for spring semester was February 3. We ended up in good shape in both headcount (6,872, an increase of 5% over last spring) and credit hour production (78,717, an increase of 4.0% over last spring). Spring CHP was 91.8% of goal, slightly below our goal but a good result nonetheless given that our December 2016 graduation class was much larger than usual. The final headcount represents a spring enrollment record for UNA.

Searches The search for the next VPAA and Provost is on schedule. The search committee, under the leadership of Dr. Brenda Webb, is nearing the end of Skype interviews and will soon make recommendations on which candidates to bring to campus. The search for the VP for Business and Financial Affairs is getting organized under the leadership of Dr. Doug Barrett, who has accepted my invitation to chair that search committee. Other committee members are the VP of Business and Finance and the VP of Student Affairs. We will continue to meet candidates for both positions.

Athletics Pursuant to the press conference and announcement on December 6, we have signed membership agreements with the ASUN and Big South Conferences. We will continue as a member of Division II and the Gulf South Conference for one more year, with 2018-19 marking our first year in Division I play. The reclassification process takes four years to complete. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to read the FAQ on this topic that is available on the "Rise and Roar" page that links to the UNA Athletics website. I will work with AD Linder to schedule a time later this semester for us to provide an overview of next steps in the reclassification process and to answer questions on this topic.

Faculty and Staff Forum The second annual EC Forum with faculty and staff was held on January 31 in Norton Auditorium. All EC members were present to answer questions, and there were just over 100 attendees. We are committed to continuing to offer this opportunity each year, but I intend to w

Status of Braly Stadium Today's edition of the *Times Daily* published a guest column I wrote ("Let's Work Together to Find the Right Answer") to explain our concerns about the proposal to build the new Florence Middle School on the property adjacent to Braly Municipal Stadium. Please know we are doing everything within our power to work with city and FCS officials to find a resolution to this difficult issue. If those efforts are not successful, we will need to consider options. The parking situation at Braly has long been problematic and has been made even more so by the preparations to construct the new school within feet of the home side of the stadium (much closer than the old Coffee High School). What other stadium with a capacity of 15,000 (2010) in the area (e.g., Hampton 8,000 (2010)) can we use?