

December 14, 2015

To: University Coordinating Council
Marc Seigar, Chair

From: SEM subcommittee
Mary Keenan and James Klueg, Co-chairs

Re: Items from the November 4 Town Hall Meeting

On November 4, 2015, Chancellor Black hosted a campus town hall meeting addressing student success and retention. More than 125 UMD faculty and staff attended the session and participated in generating comments and action items related to improving student retention. The Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) subcommittee has been combing through this information and has identified comments that we believe are best addressed by committees within UMD's shared governance structure. We submit the following for your referral to the appropriate group, and, in the spirit of closing-the-loop, request that UCC acknowledge receipt and any relevant action, as appropriate. Comments collected at the town hall meeting are bulleted.

Changes to first-year grading practices: *This topic also generated a number of follow up comments from faculty and staff after the town hall.*

- 1st year GPA – no F-grade for 1st year; no-credit, not factored into ultimate GPA
- I like the idea of no “F” grades for the 1st year. Instead, give a N/C no-credit. An “f” that early on can destroy GPA and the student is pretty much done
- No grades for 1st year students

Space and facility related:

- Space planning needed to foster relationship building
- Better utilize outdoor space, add tables/benches; outdoor mtg/classroom space (need wireless)
- Space for faculty and staff to eat together; opportunities to collaborate

Thank you for giving consideration to these items. SEM subcommittee may refer additional items to UCC as we continue to review materials from the town hall meeting.

cc: Chancellor Black
Chris Johnson, Chair, Strategic Planning & Budget
SEM website