Agenda: Academic & Student Affairs Committee Meeting
September 22, 2026, 3 p.m., via Teams

I. Committee Chair Dr. Rebecca Hopkins called the meeting to order at 3 p.m. Those in attendance were Becca Bush, Mallory Ebert, Holly Edens, Dr. Minnette Ellis, Dr. LaKeva Harris, Dr. Po Hu, Matthew Jones, Allie Mills, Thomas Pratt, Dr. Sunhui Sim, Dr. Brien Smith, Julie Taylor, and Dr. Laura Williams.

II. After a motion by Mr. Pratt and a second by Dr. Williams, the committee unanimously approved today's agenda.

III. Dr. Hopkins gave an overview of the committee charge as written below.

A. To originate, review, recommend, and report in the following areas:
    1) Academic and/or Student Affairs policies and issues as received from the SGEC
    2) Student recruitment, retention, and admission
B. To communicate its deliberations and findings through the VPAA to the President, and after discussion with the President, to the University community
C. To handle any proposals the committee may make affecting University policy according to section C.2 "Shared Governance Procedure for Policy Change Recommendations"
D. To submit a final written report electronically by the first day of the fall semester to the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs with a copy sent to the Chair of the SGEC

IV. New Business

A. Dr. Hopkins reported that Dr. Fred Kindelsperger had volunteered to be vice chair, and no other eligible members volunteered or were nominated. The committee approved Dr. Kindelsperger's nomination.
B. Dr. Hopkins offered a quick overview of the revisions to ***Freshman Residency Requirements***. After a motion from Ms. Mills and a second by Mr. Jones, the group approved the revisions and recommended forwarding to SGEC.
C. Dr. Hopkins gave an overview of the ***Key Findings from the Admissions and Student Preparedness Work Group Final Report*** from Spring 2026.
    1) Ms. Taylor, who was part of the workgroup, gave a summary of the report on whether to require ACT/SAT scores in the admission process. The group looked at OIR data, made recommendations, and developed a multi-measure approach. The University has started implementing some of those recommendations already, including the purchase of OCR software for transcript and GPA review, as well as integration with Banner, etc. The group also recommended increasing communications and encouraging students to submit ACT/SAT scores, though they are not required.
    2) Ms. Mills, also part of the workgroup, noted that the charge to look at ACT/SAT score requirement raised questions about student readiness. She reported that the

workgroup wanted to ensure UNA is proactive instead of reactive in the need for student support.

3) After giving an overview of SGEC protocols and AL Act 432, Dr. Williams noted that the faculty senate will be a body to provide faculty feedback during this academic year, as the university works on compliance with the new law. Dr. Williams recommended that the committee approve the workgroup recommendations as interim proposals to begin the work and continue evaluating the admissions process.
4) After a motion to approve the recommendations as interim by Mr. Pratt and a second by Mr. Jones, the committee approved and recommended sending them to SGEC.

D. With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

V. Announcements: Next meeting – October 27, 2026, 3 p.m., pending new business