



**Academic and Student Affairs Committee  
Provost Report**

David W. Blackwell, Provost

February 23, 2018





# Momentum and Vision Attract Talent







# Creative Solutions

At your October 2017 Retreat, the Board brainstormed with faculty and staff about “disruptions” in higher education.

The Board discussed creative solutions for fulfilling our vision in changing and challenging times.

We are continuing those conversations.





# Retention: Fall 2017 to Spring 2018

# 93.7%





# First Year Experience



The first two weeks are crucial.

We are developing a coordinated, intentional, and data-driven plan for how we provide support the moment students commit to UK.

In January, we kicked off a campus-wide student success initiative. More than 200 members of the UK community attended.

Each year we will – with the experience of what is working and what is not – add new initiatives to continue moving forward in a strategic way.



# Student Financial Wellness

In the last six years, we have:

- Doubled the amount of institutionally-funded financial aid we provide.
- Graduated nearly 40% more low-income students.

Preliminary data for Fall 2017 resident freshmen indicate their average unmet financial need will:

- Decline by 12% from the previous year.
- Be at its lowest level since 2013.

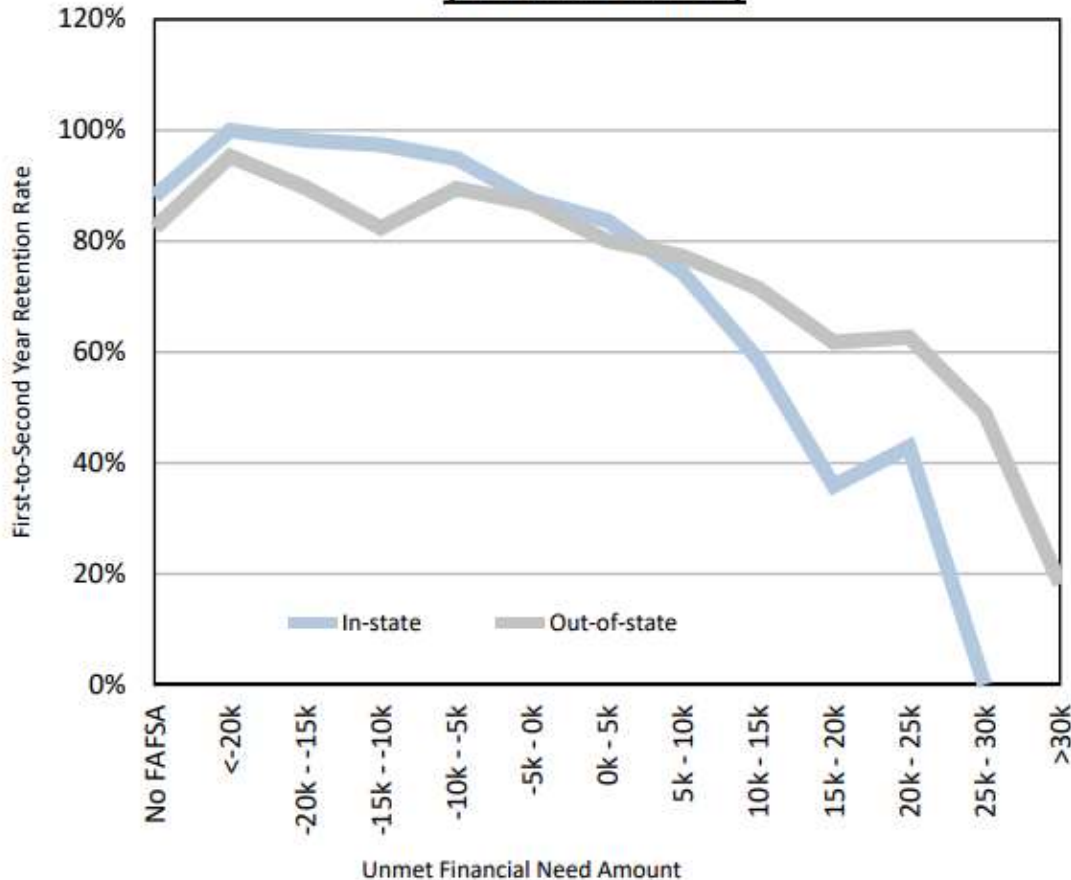






# Leveraging Economic Affordability for Developing Success (UK LEADS)

Effect of Unmet Need on Retention by Residency  
(Fall 2015 Cohort)



With as little as \$5,000 in unmet financial need, the number of students who move forward in their academic careers **drops approximately eight percentage points.**

Goal: Reduce average unmet need to less than \$5,000-10,000, which translates to a four-to-five percentage point increase in first-to-second year retention.



## Students With One-Time Grants: Fall 2016 to Fall 2017

	Fall 2016 to Spring 2017	Fall 2016 to Priority Registration (end of Academic Year)	Fall 2016 to Fall 2017
Predicted Retention without One-Time Grant	70.8%	56.1%	57.7%
Predicted Retention with One-Time Grant	90.4%	71.9%	72.9%
Actual	89.9%	75.3%	75.8%



## Students With One-Time Grants: Fall 2017 to Spring 2018

	Fall 2017 to Spring 2018	Fall 2017 to Priority Registration (end of Academic Year)	Fall 2017 to Fall 2018
Predicted Retention without One-Time Grant	68.4%	48.2%	51.9%
Predicted Retention with One-Time Grant	87.1%	64.8%	64.4%
Actual	89.3%	N/A	N/A



# A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education



These initiatives undergird our ultimate goal: producing graduates who can help create, grow, and sustain a dynamic economy.

Careers are built on a foundational education in the technical skills necessary to succeed, but also the softer skills from a general curriculum steeped in the arts and sciences.

We hope to nurture more collaboration among the colleges to provide interdisciplinary learning.

I look forward to working with the University Senate to envision and implement new ways we can empower our faculty and continue to innovate within our curriculum.



# Graduate Education

The Blue Ribbon Panel is jointly charged by the Office of the Provost and the University Senate.

The Panel has identified several themes to further define and explore:

- Growth and Innovation
- Graduate Student Experience
- Infrastructure
- Evaluation/Assessment/Quality

Two campus forums will take place in the next two weeks.

In addition, a graduate education survey was sent to all graduate faculty and graduate students. Responses were collected and collated by StaMats:

- 549 faculty respondents
- 649 student respondents





# Moving Forward

Thanks to the tremendous talent we have across this campus, I know we will not slow down.

Those we serve – our students, our people, and our state – are depending on us to keep moving forward.

I believe this is our moment.

