Welcome back! As we reflect on the successes of last year and embark on a new semester, I thought an update was in order regarding our planned areas of focus for the future.

**Strategic Plan**

As you know, my office was charged by Chancellor Angle with creation of a new strategic plan that will lead UTC’s efforts for the next five years. Several listening sessions were held during the spring and summer to initiate an ongoing discussion with faculty, staff, students, alumni and local community members. The feedback received during these meetings has been constructed into four goal statements that will be used to continue a focused conversation with university groups in the coming months. For more information and continuous updates, please see the strategic planning blog at: [http://blog.utc.edu/strategic-plan/](http://blog.utc.edu/strategic-plan/).

**Interim Report for SACS COC**

The university must complete a five-year interim report, due in early 2016, for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges as part of the ongoing accreditation process. This report, while not as detailed as the accreditation report the university submitted in fall 2010, is still a daunting task. Like the 2010 report, the five-year report will require the hard work and commitment of the entirety of campus. You may be called upon to assist the effort. I appreciate your continued help and patience with this vital effort.

**Curriculum Mapping**

All academic departments are currently going through the curriculum mapping process for their programs and degrees as part of our continuing assessment efforts. The mapping project is expected to be completed in early 2015 and will provide crucial documentation for the SACS COC five-year report.

For those departments needing assistance with the mapping process, the Curriculum Mapping Implementation Team is available to support this project. The group was created in part to guide you through the process; please contact Karen Adsit if you need assistance.

**Complete College Strategic Plan**

The Complete College Strategic Plan Steering Committee’s final report was issued in spring 2014. In the report, the committee identified several strategic initiatives designed to improve student retention and degree completion. Stuart Benkert has been asked to facilitate this process; this fall he will be working with academic departments across campus to discuss and implement plans already developed to accurately track student retention and degree completion data.
Educational Advisory Board, Student Success Collaborative
As we continue efforts toward increasing our retention, progression, and graduation rates, UTC has joined more than 100 institutions of higher education participating in the Student Success Collaborative (SSC). SSC is an initiative of the Education Advisory Board that combines technology, research, process improvement, and predictive analytics to help institutions positively impact learning outcomes for all students.

Engagement with SSC leverages the use of “big data” to analyze the past decade of student performance at UTC. This data will be used to identify key courses, grades, and other factors that are predictive of success in each of our programs on campus. This information will enable us to have earlier and more proactive conversations with students.

Academic Affairs Staff Relocation
Academic affairs staff and administration currently located in the Provost’s House are moving to the east end of Hooper Hall. This relocation is expected to be completed by September 5th.

Thank you all for your continued commitment to UTC and to our students.

Let’s make it a great year! Go Mocs!