

Joining the Unification Community Conversation

A Community Conversation will be set up as three circles or zones: inner circle speaks; middle circle might speak; outer circle listens. People move between the circles depending on their interests in participating. A facilitator will manage, but not participate in, the conversation and will steer it away from debating differences of opinions.

A facilitator will introduce the conversation process and pose guiding questions for the session, emphasizing that the intent is to listen and to discover intersections of common interest. Participants will use a “talking piece” to indicate who has the floor and will not respond to other people’s comments until the talking piece returns to them. Facilitators will ensure that new entrants to the inner circle will have the opportunity to speak before the talking piece returns to an earlier speaker.

Members of the UAC will listen and take notes that will be aggregated without attribution to specific individuals.

While the facilitators have questions to guide the conversation, they have suggested that you consider your participation by thinking about the kinds of questions listed below.

9:00 am – 10:15 am

What is the character of a unified college community?

- Both campuses have strong senses of identity – some unique and some similar. How do we create a new institutional community that builds on that?
- As a new institutional identity builds, in what ways will campus identity and community remain important and in what ways not?
- How can we begin assimilating campus community into a new institutional identify?

10:30 am – 11:45 pm

What is the character of a unified student life?

- Unification will impact the entire student experience including residence life, academic support, and extra curricular activities. How could student life be enhanced in a unified institution?
- What kinds of activities would be important that are common across campuses? Unique to a campus?
- What will be important ways for students in interact with their peers, resources, and programs across two campuses?

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm

What is the character of unified academics?

- How could academic programs and their “brands” be enhanced by unified academic resources?
- When would the student be best served by a program that is unique to one campus? Common to both campuses?
- How can students be effectively and efficiently advised in a multi-campus environment?