2. Student Retention - UMC will increase enrollment beyond the current 1,151 on-campus, degree-seeking students by improving its success in retaining bright and curious learners once enrolled.

2.1 UMC will invest in faculty and in the scholarship of teaching. UMC will become a magnet for talented teaching scholars through research and professional development in support of teaching excellence.

2.2 Improved student learning results in improved retention. Effective assessment of student learning is the core goal and outcome measures will drive strategy. Compact funding will support development of faculty expertise in and administrative support for sustainable practices for the assessment of student learning and the continuous improvement thereof.

2.3 UMC is known as a small, friendly campus where students receive individual attention in a caring environment. Student satisfaction data clearly shows the value of this reputation and its importance as a point of strategic differentiation in the marketplace. UMC will evaluate existing student support services and develop a coherent array of programs with outcomes tied directly to improved retention. An Honors Program, as proposed by student leaders, will be among those considered.

2.4 UMC will improve student retention and create competitive advantage with a campus wide recommitment to exceptional service. Service units and support systems will be critically evaluated efficiency, effectiveness, and consistency with changing student expectations. An exceptional student experience, in addition to high quality academic, is the goal.

2.5 Academic Department Heads teach 6 credits per semester; they are unable to provide the time and attention students in their degree programs deserve. Compact funding will support Department Heads who wish to teach less and focus more on recruitment and retention.

A designated staff person to coordinate retention efforts including the formation of a retention committee made up of a designated person in each department to be part of the retention team with responsibilities to strategize & implement retention. This person will research the characteristics of those who leave UMC and those who stay and graduate from UMC.

Look at statistics for UMC to adequately track..34.4% retention and graduation rates over a 3 year average.

Purchase the Noel-Levitz retention management system that is given to all students during registration. This instrument flags students that are most at risk of dropping out. Faculty will receive training and will work with the students identified most at risk of leaving to improve retention.

Work to set expectations that faculty advisers meet a minimum number of times each semester with new students. Alexander Astin’s work indicates a strong connection between advisor and student connection in regards to retention.

Revise the early alert system including collecting data and comparing from year to year.

1 credit course for students that are undecided to help them with career clarification. Tinto’s work with student shows that if they make a academic commitment they are more likely to be retained.
Exit survey’s-compile data and have the retention coordinator look at this in a historical sense to track and identify problem areas.