Origins of CAS Standards

- CAS was established in 1979 and has affiliations with over 40 Student Affairs related professional organizations.
- CAS has developed standards for 44 different Student Affairs units.
- CAS standards and learning outcomes are developed by Student Affairs professionals for Student Affairs professionals.
- The development of CAS standards rely heavily on the input and direction of many of the professional associations we currently belong to (NASPA, CACUSS, NACADA, etc.) along with expert research in the areas of student development, retention and success.
- Some CAS standards have been around for 28 years and have experienced significant revisions as that particular field has evolved. Others are relatively new, or in some cases not yet developed. This provides us with an opportunity to help shape their development and implementation across our broader profession.

CAS Standards and Our Division

- CAS standards offer a shared language and approach to the way in which we assess the effectiveness of our programs and services, train and support our staff, and evaluate the learning outcomes of our students. This shared language will also support our efforts to effectively partner with our academic colleagues.
- CAS standards are not intended to be highly prescriptive or rigid. Think of CAS standards as a framework by which we can consider the work we do and what best practices are currently in place across broader professional fields.
- The work that we are undergoing will support institutional efforts of enhancing the quality of academic programs and budgetary decisions by identifying, evaluating and aligning key indicators of quality across our various services and programs.
- The work that we are doing through CAS is consistent for our Student Affairs vision and values.
- CAS standards will be implemented over several year in a manner where we collectively work together to achieve this goal. We recognize that units will be at various levels of readiness and will need customized supports to participate. This is understood and appreciated. The focus is on treating this as a marathon, not a sprint.
- Student Affairs takes this work very seriously. The importance of training, supporting and preparing staff is why we have invested in Keeling and Associates to help lead us through this process.