

# ACADEMIC SENATE REPORT

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

## Blackboard Ultra

### I. CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Beth Dunn called the meeting to order at **2:32p.m.**

### II. **Members Present:** Frank Alvino, Heather Amwoza, John Cody, Elizabeth Collins, Beth Dunn, Rebecca Fournier, Joyce Fritz, Gail Krahenbuhl, Saadia Khan, Mary Casey-Incardone, Larry Manno, Selma Mehmedagic, Julianne Murphy, Salvatore Siriano, Calvin Washington, II

**Ex-Officio Members:** Jeanette Bartley, Susan Campos, Panos Hadjimitsos, Paul Jensen, Joe Klinger

**Non-Voting Members:** Hilary Meyer, Jason Lemberg

**Guests:** Gregg Beglau, Michael Crenshaw, Purva DeVol, Humberto Espino, Christina Garcia, Rachel Hindery, Lisa Huff, Justyna Kohtz, Jodi Koslow Martin, Shekinah Lawrence, Mel Loucks, Troy Moran, Lena Musa, Ty Perkins, Melissa Ramirez-Cooper, Kurian Tharakunnel, Nicole Zumpano

### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Beth Dunn asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the **February 11, 2025**, Academic Senate meeting. Mr. Larry Mano made a motion to approve, seconded by Ms. Selma Mehmedagic. Motion carried.

### IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. **College Curriculum:** Dr. Julianne Murphy stated the committee met on March 6.

#### New Curriculum:

- Cosmetology Certificate 50 credit hours
- 17 **NEW** Cosmetology COS courses
  - COS 101, 102, 103, 104, 111, 112, 113, 114, 201, 202, 204, 205, 213, 214, 225, 245, 250

#### New Course (s):

- **PHS 240** Scientific Data Analysis (new title) replaced Math and Statistics for Science, suggested at 2/6/25 CCC meeting.

#### Revised Curriculum:

- **C218A Nursing AAS** (60 to 62 total program credits)-2 versions  
*same degree – one version is Fall start and one version is Spring start*
- **C407J INACTIVATED Web Design and Technologies**
- **C520A EC/Administration and Management Advanced Certificate Gateway to Opportunity Level I** \*Title to 'Early Childhood Administration and Management'

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- **Revised Course (s) (5):**
  - **HRT 295 Landscape CAD and Graphics**  
*\*Title to 'Landscape Design II', updated topics and outcomes*
  - **MAT 224 Linear Algebra**  
*\*Updated course description, textbook, GLOs, prerequisite to 'MAT 131 (minimum grade 'C')*
  - **COT 111 Plumbing Fixture, Valves & Faucets**  
*\*Updated Assessment, textbook contact hours, topics, outcomes, prerequisite/corequisite to 'MAT 131 (minimum grade 'C'); Course fee from \$125 to \$200*
  - **COT 210 Plumbing: Fixture Installation**  
*\*Prerequisite/corequisite to 'COT 111 (minimum grade 'C') and COT 100 or MAT 110 (or higher); updated Instructional Strategies, Assessment, textbook, lab manual; Course fee from \$125 to \$200*
  - **COT 211 Plumbing: Fixture Repair**  
*\*Prerequisite to 'COT 210 (minimum grade 'C') updated Instructional Strategies, Assessment, textbook, lab manual; Course fee from \$125 to \$200*

Motion to approve Curriculum report by Dr. John Cody and seconded by Mr. Larry Manno.

Dr. Julianne Murphy shared:

## **Spring 2025 Dates and Deadlines:**

- Deans due date to Curriculum March 10 for April 3 Curriculum meeting
- Deans due date to Curriculum April 7 for May 1 Curriculum meeting

## **Other Items:**

The faculty, department chairs, and deans were asked to review class schedules to ensure the seat time (contact hours) aligns with the master syllabus. For every lecture credit hour, there should be 15 hours of seat time. This is especially important for courses transitioning to an eight-week format, where seat time must still be maintained. The process for developing hybrid and online courses was reviewed, with Ms. Nicole Zumpano who kindly spent time with the team.

- Time schedule for class seat time/break time
- Hybrid/Online Course Development

**B. Academic & Scholastic Standards** – No report. Mr. Dennis McNamara had technical issues.

**C. Student Development**- Ms. Mary Casey-Incardone stated the committee met twice on February 14 and March 7.

## **Two upcoming events:**

**Trivia Event:** On Thursday, April 3, at 12 PM in the cafeteria, faculty, students, and staff are invited to join in for several rounds of trivia. Participants will use smartphones or laptops to record answers electronically, and prizes will be awarded to the winners. It's a fun opportunity to play alone or with others.

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**Blood Drive:** On Thursday, April 10, from 10 AM to 2 PM, the annual blood drive will be held on campus with the Vitalant Blood Donation bus. A raffle will be held for both blood donors and supporters. One blood donation can save three lives, so participation is encouraged.

The next **Student Development Committee meeting** will be after Assessment Day on Friday, April 11, at 1 PM via Blackboard. Those interested can email for the meeting link.

**D. Academic Support**-No report.

**E. Campus Quality**- Ms. Beth Dunn reported on behalf of Mr. Alec Lisec.

**Lactation Room:** A new lactation room is now available in the B Building.

**Campus Committee:** They are working on walking paths, sustainable features, expanding the paddling program, and maintaining 'Tree' and 'Bee' Campus memberships. They are also organizing an Earth Day trash pickup event, exploring sustainable cooking classes, and continuing the One Earth Film Festival.

**Campus Quality:** A survey will be sent out digitally and in person to gather feedback anonymously, with a focus on student experience. They are also investigating locations for new accessible, gender-neutral bathrooms and improving student access to housing insecurity resources.

**F. Professional Development**- Ms. Gail Krahenbuhl shared that the committee discussed the updated bylaws for the Professional Development Committee. The changes were presented, and after a motion by Dr. John Cody and seconded by Ms. Saadia Khan a vote was held. The bylaws were approved.

Ms. Gail Krahenbuhl provided two updates:

- 1. Faculty Awards:** The winners of the Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member Award and the Outstanding Faculty Award will be announced soon, with the results being sent to the winners today.
- 2. Faculty In-Service:** The theme for next fall's faculty in-service will be "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion," a theme chosen by the Professional Development Committee. The Professional Development Committee will collaborate with CTE on this event, and Gail expressed excitement about finding a speaker and working on the process.

**G. Assessment**- Mr. Larry Manno stated the committee met on February 27.

The meeting focused on finalizing the agenda for Assessment Day 2025, which will take place on Friday, April 11, from 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM in the B Building (rooms 204 and 210). Registration is open on the CTE website. The event will include breakfast and lunch, with keynote speaker Chad Engel discussing "Creating Value in Assessment Beyond Compliance to Meaningful Learning." There will be four breakout sessions, including topics on updated assessment

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processes, program assessment plans, general education outcomes, and best practices in assessment cycles. After lunch, there will be a hands-on watermark training session. Additionally, assessment reports are due by March 15, with flexibility offered. Support is available for anyone needing assistance with their assessments.

*Ms. Christina Garcia, the new Director for Curriculum and Assessment, introduced herself and encouraged faculty to reach out with any questions about their assessment plans, whether for OAP or program assessments. She shared her background, having worked at Northwestern College managing the gen ed program and previously at Colorado Technical University overseeing the psychology program. Ms. Christina Garcia offered support for any concerns, particularly with the watermark system, and has been working with faculty to make quick course corrections. Please email [christina.garcia@triton.edu](mailto:christina.garcia@triton.edu) with any questions.*

## **H. Online Education and Technology:** Ms. Saadia Khan shared the following:

The OETC Committee met on February 26 and discussed several key topics. They focused on the new ADA law, which requires the institution to be compliant by April 2026, and discussed strategies and guidelines to help faculty make their courses compliant. More information and guidelines from the Office of Distance Learning, including help from Ms. Nicole Zumpano, will be shared soon.

The committee also addressed the addition of new course modalities, with faculty interested in options beyond online and hybrid. Faculty members are encouraged to reach out to Ms. Nicole Zumpano if interested in synchronous or asynchronous modalities. The committee decided to keep the discussion open, especially with the development of eight-week courses.

The next OETC meeting will be on Friday, March 28, at 11 AM via Teams, and anyone interested is welcome to join.

## **V. Operational Assembly:** Ms. Hilary Meyer reported that the Operational Assembly met on March 10 and shared several updates:

### **Academic Affairs:**

### **Continuing Education:**

- Continuing Education launched the Pre-Employment and Pre-Apprenticeship (PEPA) Program, designed for students interested in manufacturing and healthcare. This initiative aims to enhance students' marketability and equip them with valuable skills before entering the workforce. PEPA is supported by the ICCB Noncredit Grant and aligns with our commitment to workforce development.
- Additionally, Spring Break marks the kickoff of our first camp of 2025 with College for Kids. We anticipate welcoming 60 students to participate in this enriching continuing education opportunity, fostering learning and engagement during the break. College for Kids provides students the opportunity to gain knowledge on our areas of studies here at Triton College.

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## Business and Technology:

- The Business & Technology (B&T) area recently hired two new full-time office assistants, who started in early March. These positions are based in the T-100 Dean's Office.

## Arts and Sciences:

- On March 5, the Brown Bag Lunch and The Landscape, Re-Imagined gallery reception took place, showcasing an exhibition that challenges traditional views of landscape art. Attendees had the opportunity to meet the artists, engage in conversation, and explore fresh perspectives on the environment through art.
- Additionally, the Arts & Sciences department is seeking submissions for their next exhibition, Anything Goes, which celebrates collaboration and artistic experimentation. This interdisciplinary show invites artists, musicians, performers, and makers to push boundaries and engage the community in exciting new ways. Please contact A&S with questions or suggestions.

## Early College:

- Early College has experienced significant growth, with enrollment nearly tripling from the Fall 2024. This remarkable expansion underscores the increasing interest and commitment among students, partnering institutions and now collaborating with Continuing Education to provide more program offerings, advance academic and career readiness through dual enrollment and specialized career academies.
- The number of students starting the dual degree program will increase to 74 students (48 incoming and 29 returning). Participating high schools include Elmwood Park, East and West Leyden, Proviso East and West, PMSA, and Ridgewood.
- Additionally, the career academies have seen impressive expansion, with a 28% increase in programs offered, a 220% rise in student enrollment, and a 247% increase in credit hour participation.
- Programs now include Barbering, Criminal Justice, Dental Assisting, EMT, Education, EKG, Fire Science, HVAC, Optician Training, Physical Therapy Aide, Sports Conditioning, and Welding. Schools involved include Elmwood Park, East and West Leyden, Proviso East and West, PMSA, Ridgewood, and Riverside Brookfield, with potential new partners planning to join in the coming years.
- This growth underscores the high demand for dual enrollment and career-focused education, positioning the program for continued success in the years ahead.

## Student Affairs:

### Academic Success:

- The CAAS team is providing academic coaching in the library, available to all students. They are also matching SEED students with employers, both on campus and externally. Reach out to [seed@triton.edu](mailto:seed@triton.edu) if you are interested in hosting a student.

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- The Library is hosting an event on March 27 in partnership with Architecture faculty featuring Chicago Architects.
- Student Assistance has distributed a survey to faculty who participated in the self-service attendance pilot. Results will be reviewed shortly.
- TRIO is organizing a trip to Texas for students during spring break, to experience cultural activities and tour a selection of transfer institutions.

## **Admissions:**

- Pathways Spotlight Event – Engineering Science - Tuesday, March 11, 5:30 pm
- High School Group Visits for March include Proviso Township High Schools, Morton High School, East Leyden High School, Proviso East High School, and Seal-IL High School.

## **Financial Aid:**

- Financial Aid is hosting a FAFSA Family Night on March 19 for students to complete the 25/26 FAFSA for the new year starting in the fall. They will also be sending award letters for the 25/26 year this week.

## **Records:**

- Through a partnership with Parchment, starting with the Spring 2025 commencement diplomas will be mailed directly to students. Furthermore, the new system will allow students to access a digital diploma.

## **Retention and Student Engagement:**

- A \$2 million allocation from the IBHE/ICCB to support stop-out students has been granted to ReUp, a vendor specializing in re-engaging students who have been absent for a year or more. The institution is one of 12 schools benefiting from this partnership, which has already led to successful Triton College re-enrollments and completions.
- Fall registration opens week of April 21.
- TRIUMPH & SURGE are taking students to North Carolina during spring break, to experience cultural activities and tour a selection of transfer institutions.
- The Classic Man event held last week had a great turnout, with several students participating and enjoying the experience. An event for women is in the works.

## **Information Technology:**

- Currently in the development phase of a new website, which involves regular meetings with Modern Campus to review stakeholder feedback, survey results, and data analysis.
- The team is also working on upgrading to Colleague 6.0 and Self Service 3.0, which will soon replace the current version with minimal differences, primarily in the front.
- The mobile app for Triton College is under review after employees and students expressed interest, with the team exploring the best approach for setting up the app.
- They are partnering with Admissions on the Common App initiative, which allows students to apply to multiple schools through a single platform.
- The CAAS and IT teams are also completing work on the AIM platform for student accommodations.

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- IT will be upgrading the campus's wireless system. This includes migrating to Aruba Central for better wireless management and replacing outdated access points, while introducing secure and public SSIDs.
- Other ongoing projects include refreshing the CCTV system's server environment.
- They are also partnering with Financial Aid on a scholarship platform.

## DEI

- Women's History Month is currently being celebrated with a week of activities in the library, including inspiring talks from Triton College students, faculty, and staff.
- Additionally, the Heritage Committee is celebrating Irish American Heritage Month with a craft session next week, and Greek Heritage Month with a cooking demonstration on March 25.
- March is also Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, which was celebrated with a film screening and discussion last week.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Announcements:

Ms. Beth Dunn mentioned that there will be voting, only voting members should participate. All senate seats are filled. Mr. Jason Lemberg has volunteered to be the mid-manager representative. There is still no representative for classified. These positions are non-voting.

Ms. Beth Dunn is working on updating the Senate bylaws, noting that the website information is correct, but the PDF needs updates, which she aims to complete over spring break.

Ms. Mary Casey-Incardone shared The DEI presentation for Women's History Month will be held on Thursday, March 26, at 1 PM in the counseling center living room. The event will celebrate mothers, with participants invited to share stories and bring photos of their moms.

## VII. ADJOURNMENT

*Motion adjourned by Mr. Calvin Washington, II and seconded by Ms. Rebecca Fournier.*  
Motion carried. Ms. Beth Dunn adjourned the meeting at **3:17 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

*Casandra Ramirez*

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Casandra Ramirez

Beth Ann Dunn 3/27/25

Minutes approved:

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Beth A. Dunn