ACADEMIC SENATE REPORT

September 9, 2025

Blackboard Ultra

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Beth Dunn called the meeting to order at **2:33 p.m.**

II. **Members Present:** Christopher Clem, John Cody, Beth Dunn, Rebecca Fournier, Roseanne Feltman, Joyce Fritz, Ruth Hallongren, Saadia Khan, Gail Krahenbuhl, Larry Manno, Dennis McNamara, Selma Mehmedagic, Julianne Murphy, Antigone Sharris, Salvatore Siriano, Alec Lisec, Mohsin Habeeb, Selma Mehmedagic

Ex-Officio Members: Jeanette Bartley, Susan Campos, Dmytriy Havrylyzak, Paul Jensen, Joe Klinger, Troy Moran

Non-Voting Members: Jason Lemberg, Hilary Meyer

Guests: Purva DeVol, Humberto Espino, Christina Garcia, Lisa Huff, Denise Jones, Brenda Jones-Watkins, Justyna Kohtz, Jodi Koslow Martin, Shekinah Lawrence, Daniele Manni, Mary-Rita Moore, Lena Musa, Ty Perkins, Kurian Tharakunnel, Shelly Tiwari, Michael Thunberg, Leslie Wester, Nicole Zumpano,

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Beth Dunn asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the **May 13, 2025**, Academic Senate meeting. Ms. Selma Mehmedagic made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Larry Manno. Motion carried.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. College Curriculum: Dr. Julianne Murphy stated the committee met on September 4.

• **8 Revised classes**

•**ARC 108** Materials and Techniques revised description, textbooks, Topical Learning Outcomes (TLOs); removed General Education Outcomes (GEOs)
•**ARC 110** Material, Methods & Sustain I revised textbooks, Topics, TLOs, CLOs; removed GEOs
•**ARC 170** Design I revised description (minor), prerequisite, CLOs, TLOs, textbooks; removed GEOs
•**ARC 171** Design II revised textbooks, Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs), TLOs, contact hours and Assessment; removed GEOs
•**ARC 220** Material, Methods & Sustain II revised description, prerequisite, textbooks, CLOs, Topics, TLOs; removed GEOs
•**ARC 272** Design III revised description, prerequisite, CLOs, textbooks, TLOs, Assessment; removed GEOs
•**PHY 100** General Physics revised Topics (lab experiments), TLOs and contact hours
•**DMS 121** Cross-Sect Anatomy in Diagnostic Imaging revised description (minor), removed textbooks/workbooks, remove course fee

1 Inactivated Curriculum

•U230A30 - Pre-Engineering AS Emphasis

Dr. Julianne Murphy explained the process for inactivating academic programs. She advised first consulting with the Research department to obtain a list of currently active students in the program. These students should then be given options to either complete their existing program or transition to an alternative curriculum, such as the new Engineering Science AS. Once all students have either completed or switched, the program can be brought back to the Curriculum Committee for formal deletion.

Ms. Beth Dunn asked for a motion to approve the College Curriculum report, Mr. Dennis McNamara made a motion to approve curriculum and seconded by Ms. Saadia Kahn. Motion carried.

Dr. Julianne also shared:

College Curriculum Committee meeting dates and deadlines.

B. **Academic & Scholastic Standards**- Ms. Roseanne Feltman shared the following:

The committee has not yet met this semester but plans to meet every fourth Tuesday at 2:00 p.m**.** Ms. Roseanne reported one vacancy on the committee for a representative from the Faculty, Health Careers, and Public Service Programs**,** following Ms. Joyce Fritz's departure. Anyone interested in joining was encouraged to reach out.

C. **Student Development**- Ms. Beth Dunn shared the following report on behalf of Ms. Mary Casey-Incardone:

The committee has already met and is looking to collaborate with the new AI Committee. They are reviewing their bylaws and planning a slight change to their membership, which Mary will formally present at the October Senate meeting. Two major fall events are planned:

1. A Trivia Event in the cafeteria in mid-October, scheduled for the week after midterms, with prizes for each round's winners. Donations of white elephant-style gifts are welcome and can be dropped off at Mary Casey's office in A106.
2. A Student-Faculty-Staff Luncheon in the cafeteria in November, encouraging informal conversation around tables with conversation starter prompts provided.

Both events had strong turnout last year. The committee's meeting schedule for fall and spring is already set, with the next meeting scheduled for Friday, October 3 on Blackboard. Anyone interested in attending can request the meeting link.

D. Academic Support- Mr. Christopher Clem reported the following:

The committee has not yet met this semester, with the first meeting scheduled for Friday of this week. The committee will not follow a “second Fridays” schedule this fall, as that would not allow enough meetings to be held. The updated meeting schedule and Blackboard link have been shared with Ms. Casandra Ramirez and should be reflected on the committee’s Senate webpage. Meetings will be held in person in E-205 or via Blackboard. Two updates are expected to be shared at next month’s meeting.

E. Campus Quality- Mr. Alec Lisec reported the following:

The Campus Quality Committee has not met yet this semester. Their first meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday at 3:00 p.m**.**, with a second meeting planned for October 15 at 3:00 p.m. They expect to have updates from both meetings to share at the October Senate meeting.

F. Professional Development- Ms. Gail Krahenbuhl shared the following:

The committee held its first meeting, with several key items on the agenda. Bob, representing the union, joined to clarify contractual expectations regarding OETC participation in *Teaching and Learning Day*. He confirmed that the event should be collaborative, but that the Professional Development Committee (PDC) retains ownership of the day. The committee also held an informal debrief of the recent workshop. While the survey results had just been received and not fully reviewed, the general consensus was that the workshop was successful. Looking ahead, the committee unanimously agreed that the next workshop will focus on *academic freedom* and is currently seeking speakers and panelist suggestions, including nominations of faculty members. A concern was raised by several faculty who stated they would not participate in panels or workshops without a stipend. Given that CTE presenters are compensated and there is precedent for paying faculty, this issue was taken seriously. A proposal to use personal professional development funds to pay presenters was unanimously rejected. The committee hopes to find a solution to ensure fair compensation and make full use of the expertise within the faculty.

Dr. Julianne Murphy suggested an alternative to direct stipends for faculty participating in panels or presentations allowing participants to receive or enhance professional development funds instead. These funds could be used for items that support teaching, such as computers or tablets. She emphasized it was just a brief idea to consider and didn’t want to take up much time on it. Ms Beth Dunn supported Dr Murphy’s idea.

G. Assessment- Mr. Larry Manno reported the following:

The committee has not yet met this semester, with the first meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 18. However, an update was shared regarding last year's (2024–25) assessment results. Course assessment submissions reached a record high, with 95% of expected reports received and 4,345 artifacts reviewed. At the program level, there was a 100% submission rate, with noticeable improvements in both documentation and followthrough on action plans. For general education outcomes, all expected courses completed their assessments, resulting in 1,045 artifacts reviewed more than the previous four years combined. The assessed outcome, critical thinking, showed the highest student performance to date. The full report is available on the Assessment Committee SharePoint page and will also be sent out along with information on this year's assessment process. A reminder was given that assessment plans for the upcoming year are due by **October 31**, including both the selected course or program and the assessment tool.

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

The OETC Committee held its first meeting on Friday, September 5**,** and will continue to meet on the first Friday of each month at 10 a.m. via Teams**.** In the meeting, they discussed the committee's role in the Teaching and Learning Day**,** with Leslie and Bob joining to clarify how OETC will collaborate with the PDC. The committee also addressed ongoing accessibility issues, particularly with Blackboard**,** where certain artifacts are preventing full accessibility. They consulted Ms. Shelly Tiwari**,** and Ms. Nicole Zumpano mentioned that the administration has agreed that the goal is to reach 95% accessibility in the ALLY report (Accessibility Report) on Blackboard by Spring 2026. The committee discussed strategies for making Blackboard course shells more accessible and also reviewed the updated 2025 rubrics for online and hybrid course development. These rubrics, introduced by Blackboard and Anthology, are based on the Exemplary Course Program Rubric, which is substantively similar to what was previously approved by the Senate, with mostly updated language and a rearrangement of standard and exemplary rubrics. This updated version will be shared with the Senate before the next meeting. Due to time constraints, the committee did not get to the membership and bylaws discussion on the agenda.

V. **Operational Assembly:** Ms. Hilary Meyer shared reports from the following committees:

Operational Assembly Report Highlights to Academic Senate:

I. Student Affairs-

Troy Campus Quest:
Currently targeted at new and early college students, with plans to open the game to the entire student body. It will be reintroduced at the Corn Roast on Wednesday, September 17 and includes a drawing for a free 3-credit course.

Financial Aid:
A Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) webinar is scheduled for September 24.
The FAFSA for 2026–27 will open on time on October 1, marking the first on-time launch in two years.

Admissions:
The college exceeded its Fall 10th day enrollment goal and is on the road to 12,000 students.

Student Life:
Welcome Week events had a strong turnout, with over 500 students attending one event: Boba was

particularly popular. The Corn Roast is scheduled for Wednesday, September 17. Faculty and staff are encouraged to contact Student Life to volunteer.

Retention & Student Engagement – Advising:
Academic Planning and Undecided Workshops are starting for first-year students.

Transfer Center:
Preparations are underway for the Fall Transfer Fair at the end of the month, with 45 institutions confirmed to participate.

New Student Orientation:
Summer orientation attendance increased.

II. Business Services –

Communications & Media:
A new virtual campus tour is being planned to highlight new programs, including Cosmetology, Barbering, and HVAC.

Facilities Updates:
Exterior repainting of A Building is planned.

III. Information Technology –

Wi-Fi & Aruba Wireless Network:
An unexpected Wi-Fi crash occurred at the start of the school year and took two weeks to resolve in collaboration with HP and vendor partners. The environment is now stable but not yet optimal. While 60 of the oldest access points were replaced, 150 older ones remain and may perform poorly. Triton is in discussions with HP to replace the remaining access points.

Completed Summer Projects:
Red Rock TracCloud went live. The Award Spring scholarship platform was implemented. The AIM platform for CAAS was also launched.

DEI –
Celebrations are planned for Hispanic Heritage Month and Italian Heritage Month.

IV. Guided Pathways –
An overview of the D.E.R.A. (Developmental Education Reform Act) program was presented by Deans Jeanette Bartley and Denise Jones. Mandated in Illinois in March 2021, D.E.R.A. requires students to complete gateway Math and English within two semesters. It replaces long developmental education sequences with accelerated pathways. Triton has already seen measurable improvements and is continuing efforts to close equity gaps, align with the Equity Plan, and support student progression and completion.

V. Research –
New reports now available on the portal include the Spring 2025 Student Satisfaction Report and the Early Momentum Report (Annual Report).

Student Representative –
Mr. Dmytriy Havrylyak, currently serves as the TCSA (Triton College Student Association) President.

VI. Academic Affairs –

Career Services:
The Career Fair is scheduled for Wednesday, October 1, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., with 57 out of 60 employers already confirmed. The Super Strong Assessment campaign aims to collect 90 completed assessments by the end of September. The campaign is open to students, community members, and employees.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Announcements:

During the meeting, the Senate formally introduced the new AI Subcommittee, which had been approved in the May 2025 Senate meeting. A motion to present and discuss the committee was made by Ms**.** Saadia Khan and seconded by Mr. Christopher Clem**.** The committee's name, bylaws, and proposed membership, all prepared by Ms. Rebecca Fournier, were previously shared with the Senate. Ms. Rebecca Fournier introduced the committee's full name as the *Artificial Intelligence, Education, and Policy Committee*. She was unable to pull up the membership details at the moment and apologized for the inconvenience.

*Ms. Beth Dunn outlined the membership structure of the committee, which includes a chairperson who is a member of the Academic Senate**;** four faculty members from Arts and Sciences representing different departments**;** one faculty member each from Business and Technology, Allied Health, and an adjunct from Technology; and one librarian**.** Additionally, there will be non-voting members, including administrative representatives from Technology and Information and from Arts and Sciences, as well as resource members, which include at least one student support staff member and one student member**.***

Ms. Rebecca Fournier explained that the committee is in its first year, focusing on establishing itself and prioritizing education particularly getting information about AI tools and resources into the hands of faculty. While there is currently a policy in place, the committee will focus mainly on education for now and does not yet anticipate specific new policies. She emphasized that after the first year, the committee plans to revisit and potentially revise the bylaws to include more departments and diverse voices.

Mr. Dennis McNamara asked whether a formal vote was needed to open the discussion about the new committee, given that a first and second had already been made to present and discuss it. He expressed uncertainty about the procedural requirements but suggested that since this is simply an open discussion of an idea, a formal vote to begin the discussion may not be necessary.

Ms. Beth Dunn noted that the committee's bylaws, name, and membership had been presented by Ms. Rebecca Fournier and previously emailed to the Senate. She shared a suggestion from VP Campos in the chat, recommending changing the membership category from "Allied Health" which may not typically include nursing or fire/EMT to "Health Careers" instead. She mentioned that this minor change could be easily made if the Senate agrees.

Mr. Christopher Clem suggested that the committee membership category for the librarian should be expanded to "librarian/counselor", since counseling does not fall under a specific subject area.

Ms. Justyna Kohtz recommended increasing representation from the Business and Technology area on the committee, noting that other committees typically have more members from that division.

Mr. Dennis McNamara suggested that instead of adding more members from Business and Technology, the committee could consider reducing the number of members from Arts and Sciences. He expressed concern that some committees become too large to function effectively and recommended keeping the committee smaller in its first year to ensure all voices are heard and to help efficiently manage initial work, especially given the diversity of perspectives involved.

Also, suggested that if the Senate is considering a change to its bylaws, it would be wise to discuss the proposal thoroughly as was done in the current meeting—and then table the vote until the next regular meeting. He emphasized this as a cautious and thoughtful approach, allowing members time to reflect before making a substantial change. However, he clarified that this level of caution isn't strictly required, but offered it for the Senate's consideration.

Ms. Beth Dunn clarified that the creation of the new subcommittee was already voted on and approved in May, and it was announced at that time that the bylaws would be voted on in September. She stated that the bylaws were shared with all Senate members at least two weeks ago, as soon as she received them. In her view, Senate members had sufficient time to review the bylaws and gather feedback from their respective departments or divisions. She emphasized this was her personal opinion and welcomed further discussion.

Ms. Beth Dunn proposed calling a vote to approve the committee bylaws with the following amendments:

1. Increase Business and Technology representation to two faculty members.
2. Change "Allied Health" to "Health Careers".
3. Update the representative role from "Librarian" to "Librarian/Counseling".

Motion to approve the committee bylaws by Mr. Dennis McNamara and seconded by Mr. Larry Manno.

The motion to approve the AI Committee bylaws with the proposed changes *passed* successfully. Ms. Beth Dunn thanked Ms. Rebecca Fournier for her work and announced that the updated bylaws will be shared with Ms. Casandra Hutchinson and included in a consolidated document of all current Senate bylaws. This updated document will be made available on the portal to ensure accuracy and consistency.

Other announcements:

Ms. Beth Dunn made a few closing announcements. She informed the Senate that the membership list is updated and available on the portal and asked members to review it for accuracy and report any corrections to her or Ms. Casandra Ramirez.

She also encouraged committee chairs to begin thinking about their goals for the semester and the year as their committees start meeting. She recommended aligning these goals with the college's Strategic Plan, which focuses on:

- **Student Success**
- **Institutional Sustainability**
- **Innovation and Technology**

Drawing from her past experience as a committee chair, Beth shared that setting and assessing goals was a helpful way to track progress throughout the year. While not required, she strongly recommended that committee chairs adopt this approach.

Ms. Beth mentioned that Dr. Duvall has developed a reporting tool to help committees align their work with strategic plan goals and track their progress. She will be sharing this tool and related guidance with all committee chairs soon.

The Senate usually meets on the second Tuesday of each month, but in October, the second Tuesday (October 14) falls on a faculty holiday. Therefore, the next Senate meeting will be held on the third Tuesday, October 21 at 2:30 p.m. Members were asked to update their calendars accordingly.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion adjourned by Dr. Julianne Murphy and seconded by Ms. Saadia Khan. Motion carried. Ms. Beth Dunn adjourned the meeting at **3:33 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by: *Casandra Ramirez*

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Casandra Ramirez

Beth Ann Dunn

Minutes approved: ____

Beth A. Dunn