

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

College Council met for its annual planning meeting/retreat in B-270A at 9:30 a.m.

ATTENDEES

Council Members Present: Mary-Rita Moore, Frank Alvino, Andrew Blahut, Purva DeVol, Beth Ann Dunn, Agnieszka Kozielska, Jason Lemberg, Mel Loucks, Shekinah McCullum-Lawrence, Hilary Meyer, Kurian Tharakunnel, Shelley Tiwari

Council Members Absent: Shawntrae Douglas, Colleen Rockafellow

Others Present: Susan Campos, Jodi Koslow Martin, Ivette Perez, Brenda Watkins

President Moore welcomed attendees and recognized continuing, new, and outgoing members. The council's discussion during the retreat will help shape goals for the year, which will guide the work of the Operational Assembly and Academic Senate. Members participated in an icebreaker activity and photos were taken for the College Council webpage.

STRATEGIC PLAN – CULTIVATING GROWTH TOGETHER

Dr. DeVol introduced the launch of the institution's new strategic plan that will guide institutional efforts from FY26 to FY30. The plan emphasizes collaboration, measurable outcomes and inclusion across all departments. The three goals of the Strategic Plan and highlights are:

Goal 1: Institutional Sustainability focuses on long term growth across financial, operational, workforce, and academic excellence dimensions.

- *Strengthen industry partnerships and align programs with labor market needs*
- *Integrate technology into training and expand leadership development*
- *Enhance workplace culture and supporting employee well-being*
- *Use ROI models and analytics to evaluate impact and guide planning*
- *Ensure financial health through strategic investments and diversified revenue*

Goal 2: Innovation and Technology is aimed at cultivating a modern, informed campus through advanced technological infrastructure and innovation.

- *Optimize instructional delivery and campus operations*
- *Streamline enrollment, advising, and support services through digital tools*
- *Promote innovation across academic disciplines and institutional processes*
- *Enhance digital fluency through curriculum updates and faculty development*
- *Provide training in emerging technologies and industry-relevant tools*

Goal 3: Student Success is designed to foster academic excellence and workforce readiness through the integration of work-based learning experiences and clear academic pathways, beyond GPA or credentials.

- *Enhance the student-centered experience and promoting well-being*
- *Expand personalized support through tutoring, mentoring and data-driven interventions*
- *Increase enrollment access by simplifying processes and expanding outreach*
- *Offer flexible learning options, including hybrid classes and micro-credentials*
- *Strengthen career readiness through partnerships for internships, apprenticeships and job placements.*

COLLEGE COUNCIL GOALS

FY25 in review: The focus for FY25 was on the importance of data-informed decision making to drive targeted improvements, particularly in student success. One team is actively identifying data gaps and developing strategies for departments to take meaningful action based on outcome analysis. Another key discussion emphasized the need to keep the curriculum current, especially in rapidly evolving fields such as technology, while also enhancing student engagement through the use of digital tools and communication platforms. Additionally, enrollment and success data are being utilized to optimize course scheduling and to identify and share effective teaching practices across different course sections.

Advancing the FY26 Strategic Plan: Dr. Purva DeVol highlighted that the strategic plan's success depends on scaling efforts into measurable outcomes benefiting students and staff.

Council members suggested these topics for FY26 goals.

- Facilitating across departmental sharing of best practices to scale successful strategies college wide.
- Promoting inclusive use of technology to ensure ADA compliance and improve workload efficiency.
- Serving as a platform for innovation and collaboration in education technology and other areas.
- Supporting expansion and strategic alignment of industry and employer partnerships across departments
- Fostering a culture of internal empowerment and professional development.

COLLEGE NEWS TO KNOW

Vice President Koslow Martin announced that Triton College is currently searching for a new Director of Admissions. In the meantime, Vice President Martin is supporting the admissions team, especially as the college prepares to launch the Common App, which was previously

limited to four-year institutions but now includes a pilot program for community colleges in Illinois. Martin also reminded the group that the tuition deadline is August 1, noting that students must either pay in full, enroll in a payment plan, or begin the FAFSA process to avoid being dropped from their classes. Efforts continue to clarify that FAFSA provides access to grants, not just loans. Additionally, Vice President Martin shared that the TRIO grant will end in August; however, support will continue through the TRIUMPH and SURGE programs. Graduation numbers remain strong, with students receiving diplomas both by mail and digitally through Parchment, which ensures secure, long-term access to credentials. Lastly, walk-in advising has significantly improved student services and enrollment by offering a more accessible and flexible alternative to scheduled appointments.

VP Susan Campos updated the team on several campus developments, highlighting the new H-VAC program starting this fall, which is already full with both traditional and dual enrollment students and may expand to weekend sessions due to high demand. The M building is being converted from a math lab to house expanding cosmetology and barber programs, pending state inspection. The Visual Communication program is relocating from the T to the J building to align with other fine arts programming, freeing up space in the T building for a new electrical vehicle charger installation certificate program, student lounge expansion, and classroom upgrades. Classes must now meet a minimum of 55% enrollment one week prior to the semester start to be eligible to run, in an effort to optimize resources. Administratively, a new Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences is starting in the next couple of weeks, searches for a Dean of Continuing Education continue, and faculty hiring progresses with orientation planned for August 5. Finally, VP Campos addressed recent federal adult education funding challenges, noting initial cuts but potential reinstatement, while reaffirming the college's commitment to supporting students for a strong fall semester.

NEXT MEETING

The next College Council meeting will be held on Monday, August 25, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

College Council was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Juette Perez