

CALL TO ORDER

President Moore called College Council to session at 2:02 p.m. in B204-210.

ATTENDEES

Council Members Present: Mary-Rita Moore, Frank Alvino, Purva DeVol, Beth Dunn, Zelda Fredette, Agnes Kozielska (*joined the meeting at 2:11 PM*), Shekinah Lawrence, Jason Lemberg, Hilary Meyer, Colleen Rockafellow, Mel Seaton, Kurian Tharakunnel, Shelley Tiwari

Council Members Absent: Shawntrae Douglas, Dmytriy Havrylyak

Others present: Jeanette Bartley, Gregg Beglau, Susan Campos, Sara Gettinger, Joe Klinger, Denise Jones, Justyna Kohtz, Jodi Koslow Martin, Troy Moran, Hunter Oberst, Thomas Panas, Melissa Ramirez Cooper, Michael Thunberg, Brenda J. Watkins

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Rockafellow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dunn to approve the minutes from the regular Council meeting of September 15, 2025. Voice vote carried the motion unanimously.

OPERATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Dean Meyer reported that the Operational Assembly met on October 6 and shared the following highlights. In Business and Facilities, WRRG broadcasted live for the first time in Fall Family Fun Fest history, marking a significant milestone for the event. Human Resources is preparing for the open enrollment season, during which full-time employees can make changes to their health insurance plans or enroll if they are not currently covered. Additionally, the annual sexual harassment prevention training has been distributed via email; employees will receive a message from SafeColleges containing a link to complete the required training. In Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), an Italian Heritage Month celebration is scheduled for October 29, featuring *La Dolce Vita* ("The Sweet Life") in room B204. In Guided Pathways, the Early Momentum Metrics report was presented and discussed, with a follow-up conversation planned for the December Operational Assembly meeting.

Academic Affairs reported that Arts & Sciences faculty member Paul Martinez will soon release a new poetry book. Continuing Education launched new courses this month in response to community interests, including *Hemingway's Chicago Roots* and *Computer Fundamentals*. The Center for Health Professionals announced that its summer cohort achieved a 100% pass rate on the National Certification Exam. In Student Affairs, it was noted that Alejandro Mendoza began his role as the new Director of Admissions on September 29. Two recent events were highlighted: the on-campus Mental Health Symposium for students and the *Understanding Accommodations* workshop, which supported district families with students who have IEPs or 504 plans. Upcoming events include *The Sweet Taste of Early Registration* on October 21 and

22, during which taffy apples will be distributed while supplies last. Additionally, spring registration opened on October 20, and classes are scheduled to begin on January 20.

Dean Meyer shared that the following FY26 goals have been approved by the Operational Assembly: (1) lead process improvement to lower barriers to completion in support of student success; (2) align non-credit student application procedures with those for credit students under the Innovation and Technology goal; and (3) assist in emerging infrastructure upgrades and institutional compliance, as applicable.

ACADEMIC SENATE

Beth Dunn reported that there was no Academic Senate meeting recently due to a faculty holiday. The Senate is scheduled to meet on October 21, during which they will review proposed changes to the bylaws.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Ms. Tiwari introduced Mr. Kurian Tharakunnel, who provided an overview of the Early Momentum Metrics, a component of the Guided Pathways framework used to track student progress and success. These metrics, developed by the Community College Research Center, focus on first-time students enrolled in at least one credit course at the end of the fall semester. The report reviewed data from the past five years, examining outcomes for Black, Hispanic, White students, and those placed in both English and Math developmental courses. Monitoring these groups over time allows analysis of the impact of specific initiatives on student outcomes.

Summary of Key Metrics and Trends:

- **Earned 6+, 12+, 15+, and 24+ College Credits** – Black students and those with two developmental placements showed increases across most credit milestones; all groups improved in credits toward degree completion (30+).
- **Completed College Math and English in the First Year** – Students with two developmental placements demonstrated improvements; Black students also showed gains in English completion.
- **Persistence from Term 1 to Term 2** – All student groups showed improvement.

The metrics presented indicate positive trends in student progress and persistence, particularly among students from historically underrepresented groups and those requiring developmental support.

COLLEGE COUNCIL FOCUS: Workforce Pell

Dr. DeVol introduced Thomas Panas, Director of Financial Aid, and Sara Gettinger, Assistant Director of Financial Aid who presented an overview of the proposed Workforce Pell program. Beginning in the 2026-2027 award year, Pell Grant eligibility will expand to include short-term, high demand workforce training programs lasting 8 to 15 weeks and requiring 150 to 600 clock hours. These programs must receive state approval, align with industry needs, and lead to stackable credentials or pathways into degree programs. Students must still meet traditional Pell eligibility criteria, including demonstrated financial need and in pursuit of a degree. The Workforce Pell program, signed on July 4, 2025, will not allow students to receive both traditional and Workforce Pell simultaneously, and awards will count toward the 12-semester lifetime Pell limit.

Triton is preparing for implementation by identifying and developing qualifying short-term programs, collaborating with workforce boards and employers to align offerings with local labor market demands, and building systems to track completion, employment, and earnings data to meet the required 70/70 performance standard. Although the program is slated for the 2026–2027 launch, rulemaking and regulatory timelines may affect the final implementation schedule.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of College Council is on November 17, 2025 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in B204/210.

OTHER

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. DeVol made a motion, seconded by Ms. Fredette, to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote carried the motion unanimously. College Council was adjourned at 3:12 p.m.