

CALL TO ORDER

President Moore called College Council to session at 2:01 p.m. in B204-210.

ATTENDEES

Council Members Present: Mary-Rita Moore, Frank Alvino, Purva DeVol, Shawntrae Douglas, Beth Dunn, Zelda Fredette, Agnes Kozielska, Shekinah Lawrence, Jason Lemberg, Hilary Meyer, Colleen Rockafellow, Mel Seaton, Kurian Tharakunnel, Shelley Tiwari

Council Members Absent: Dmytriy Havrylyak

Others present: Jeanette Bartley, Gregg Beglau, Susan Campos, Humberto Espino, Lisa Huff, Paul Jensen, Denise Jones, Joe Klinger, Justyna Kohtz, Tina Lilly, Jo Perez, Susan Rhode, Melissa Ramirez Cooper, Michael Thunberg, Brenda J. Watkins

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Lemberg made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tiwari to approve the minutes from the regular Council meeting of November, 17, 2025. Voice vote carried the motion unanimously.

HOT TOPICS

President Moore expressed appreciation to two members who will be transitioning roles. Agnes Kozielska, who represents part-time staff, and Frank Alvino, who represents adjunct faculty were both thanked for their service. The council will seek replacements for these two positions.

OPERATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Hilary Meyer shared several updates. Beginning in Spring 2026, student photo IDs will be added to Colleague to help faculty, staff, and Enrollment Services more easily identify students. President Moore noted that Student Government supports this change and expressed appreciation for including students in decisions that impact both them and the institution. Adult Education also reported that fall 2025 enrollment remained consistent with the past three years, though it was slightly lower than fall 2024. Administrative withdrawals increased slightly compared to last year, while the number of students who dropped after classes began declined by 8% compared to the previous three years, about 200 fewer students than in fall 2024.

Continuing Education shared updates on its ongoing focus on apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship efforts through the PEPA (Pre-Employment Pre-Apprentice Academy) program, which prepares students for careers in manufacturing, hospitality, and healthcare. The healthcare PEPA Academy concluded on November 20, with eight students completing 60 hours of training and earning certificates in CPR, BLS, OSHA 10, and food preparation and sanitation. The PEPA Academy launch program, which serves dual-credit high school students working toward medical career certificates, is scheduled to conclude on December 11.

The Testing Center shared that it will complete its site visits on December 17, marking the final step in the NCTA (National College Testing Association) recertification process. In addition, those using the Otter note-taking software were advised to adjust their settings so that summaries are not automatically emailed to all virtual meeting attendees.

ACADEMIC SENATE

Beth Dunn shared the following updates: College Curriculum recommended withdrawing eight inactive programs, along with approving one revised curriculum and four revised courses. Academic and Scholastic Standards continues to work on the forgiveness procedure with updates to the language and the committee chair is also considering the creation of a Senate committee focused on high school partnerships and plans to consult with the Early College department.

Student Development shared updates on recent activities, highlighting the success of two fall events, the trivia contest and the luncheon and conversation which are both expected to continue in the spring. The committee also reviewed plans for an upcoming blood drive, with the date still to be determined. Academic Support reported that faculty were asked to update library course reserves by submitting ISBNs for textbooks currently in use and encouraged greater participation in the pilot program designed to support faculty in recording grades on Blackboard and tracking attendance through Self-Service. Campus Quality shared an update on the Paddling Program and noted that they are looking for faculty and staff volunteers to serve as certified chaperones with free training that is expected to take between one and five days and will be held in April. The committee also discussed the need for bilingual signage across campus. Professional Development reported that Outstanding Faculty nomination forms have been distributed and planning is underway for Faculty Teaching and Learning Days. The Assessment Committee is currently searching for a new chair, and in the meantime, Beth Dunn will serve in that role.

Online Education and Technology are preparing for Faculty Teaching and Learning Days. The AI Education and Policy Committee is exploring campus-wide AI licensing options, supporting the development of an AI lab, and planning AI ethics workshops. The committee is also working to update business courses to include AI components and is organizing a student technology summit scheduled for April 14. In New Business, the group discussed the new 55% threshold policy and class cancellations, and all departments were asked to compile and present data showing enrollment changes. The next Academic Senate meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2026.

STUDENT SUCCESS:

Jason Lemberg shared how Triton is working to better support students as the idea of a “typical” college student continues to evolve. He noted that many students come in with a general understanding of digital learning and expect easy access to grades, attendance, and updates, which can lead to challenges when those expectations aren’t being met. Jason reviewed student data showing that while many Triton students are part-time, a significant

number are still traditional-age students attending daytime classes. In looking at high-enrollment, low-success courses, Triton, with support from Triumph and Surge, has been able to proactively reach out to students and provide help before challenges escalate. He highlighted a shift from traditional retention alerts to more personalized outreach, including attendance-based emails and the Student Assistance Request Card on the portal. Students often use the card for simple questions, like who to contact or where to park, with quick responses helping improve engagement. Jason emphasized the importance of creating accessible support tools, using data to understand student behaviors, and finding easier ways to help students succeed.

COLLEGE COUNCIL FOCUS: Innovation and Technology Goal

Dr. Purva DeVol shared that the Council is focusing on the Innovation and Technology goal from the strategic plan, which is all about using digital tools and technology to improve student learning, make operations smoother, and support the college's mission in new ways. President Moore added that these ideas fit well with the college's overall goals and will help guide next steps.

Improving Completion Outcomes by Automating Graduation

Hilary Meyer provided an update on Triton College's efforts to improve student completion through automating graduation. She explained that previously, students had to apply to graduate, which sometimes meant eligible students didn't realize they had finished all requirements. Over the past three years, the team has been working to streamline processes in student records, program tracking, and applications to make graduation more seamless. The focus has included cleaning up program data, verifying enrollment, and resolving multiple program issues. Hilary noted that by the second year, these improvements led to over a quarter of students receiving degrees or certificates automatically. For the third year, the focus will be on refining program maps, aligning applications for new and returning students, awarding stackable credentials, and integrating financial aid checks. She emphasized that this is a collaborative effort across multiple departments and highlighted that the project has gained national recognition, with some of the team's work set to be presented at Ellucian's upcoming conference.

Artificial Intelligence applications and other emerging innovations with institutional impact

Humberto Espino explained how artificial intelligence and other new tech innovations can make a big impact at the college. He shared his own experience with AI tools like ChatGPT, Google AI, and Blackboard's AI Design Assistant.

Different Levels of AI:

Level 1: Basic generative AI for text, images, or video

Level 2: Connects AI to internal systems for more personalized outputs

Level 3: Uses AI agents that can act on their own to get the task completed.

Humberto emphasized that AI isn't meant to replace people but to make work easier, by providing a more personalized learning experience, automating routine tasks, improving communication, and supporting data-driven decisions. He shared examples from other colleges, for example the use of AI-powered tutoring and virtual advising platforms. He noted that the use of AI can enhance experiences for both students and staff, and help the college stay innovative. Humberto explained that AI isn't just about giving everyone the same tool, it's about finding solutions that actually work for the college with simple tasks, like answering basic questions that can be handled by chatbots, while more difficult processes, such as registration or advising, may require a more advanced AI software capable of making decisions. He noted that departments like tutoring need to decide how AI can best support their work and that real, institution-wide impact will come from thoughtful planning and commitment.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of College Council is on January 26, 2025, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in B204/210.

OTHER

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Fredette made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tiwari, to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote carried the motion unanimously. College Council was adjourned at 3:38 p.m.