

Members Present: Purva DeVol, Mike Garrity, Hilary Meyer, Colleen Rockafellow, Shelley Tiwari, and Kurian Tharakunnel

Members Absent: Dmytriy Havrylyak, Joe Klinger, and Katie Rullo

Others Present: James Camaioni, Lisa Huff, and Jo Perez

Meeting called to order at: 2:31pm

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the June meeting was made by Colleen Rockafellow and seconded by Purva DeVol.

I. Research & Institutional Effectiveness – Kurian Tharakunnel

- No report

II. Student Representative – Dmytriy Havrylyak

- No report

III. Academic Affairs Representative – Katie Rullo (*report submitted via email*)

Continuing Education

- Business & Industry Executive Roundtable
 - First event scheduled for June 4, 2026 (9:30–11:30 AM) at Triton.
 - Focus: workforce funding, training opportunities, and talent development/retention.
 - Moderator: Dr. Felicia Townsend, Dean, School of Continuing Education.
 - Panelists include Jonathan Fitzpatrick, Laura Fisher, and Lorena Gasca.
 - Open for RSVPs at triton.edu/roundtable.

Lifelong Learning

- Participated in Rhodes Elementary School's CRAM Fair (Feb 12, 2026) to share community resources.
- Three new instructors hired:
 - Tania Musso – Spanish language courses
 - Crystal Dooley – Yoga courses
 - Sherrie Patrick – Tai Chi courses

RSVP Program

- Continuing the Mat Project, creating mats from grocery bags for donation to Housing Forward to support individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Tax Assistance Program
 - Running Feb 9 – Apr 30.
 - Celebrating 36th year serving the community.
 - Goal: 1,300 tax returns processed (currently halfway).

Child Development Center

- Staff updates
 - Maria Martin was hired as a full-time Young Toddlers teacher.
 - Senia Pitts moved from Young Toddlers to Preschool.
- Health & Sanitary Inspection
 - Achieved a 100% score.

Center for Business

- Active customized training programs in March
 - PLCCA Proviso Leyden Council for Community Action - Forklift Training
 - PLCCA Proviso Leyden Council for Community Action - OSHA 10 and Forklift Training
 - Pace Bus - CDL Class B Permit Training
- Community engagement
 - Attended events with several organizations, including:
 - Grand Chamber of Commerce
 - West-Cook Business Alliance
 - Oak Park Chamber of Commerce
 - Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce
 - Wonderworks Children's Museum fundraiser
 - Career Fair and community information session
- Upcoming
 - Confirmed April event with the Grand Chamber.
 - Hosting "Coffee Talk" networking event on campus focused on workforce upskilling.

Adult Education

- The AE Transitions Team (led by Christina Debush) hosts five workshops for AE bridge students in March and April.
- Key events:
 - Resume Writing Workshop with Career Services on March 24.
 - Step into Healthcare Programs & Scholarships info session on March 27 (with Center for Healthcare Professionals and Health Sciences advisor).

Arts & Sciences

- Faculty recognition
 - Salvador Martinez hired as Co-Director for the Illinois Consortium for International Studies Programs Costa Rica Summer Abroad Program.
- Student engagement
 - Professors Jill LoBianco-Bartalis and Julianne Murphy hosted the 5th Annual Youth Leadership Conference for high school students.
- Fine Arts Gallery
 - Exhibition: Re-Use / Re-Cycle Art Show by Professor Michael Erzen.
 - Theme: sustainability and creative reuse of materials.
 - On display through early April.

Student Achievement

- Triton College sent 11 students (largest group in 10+ years) to the Model Illinois Government simulation (March 5–8) in Springfield.
- Students participated as representatives, senators, and lobbyists.
- Jaden Chandler won the Outstanding Lobbyist Award, Triton’s second win in five years.

IV. Student Affairs Representative – Hilary Meyer

EMSA:

- Departments will remain open during Spring Break.
- Intersession hours will be in effect, with offices closing at 5:00 PM.

Financial Aid:

- A dedicated webpage for Ukrainian citizens is available with relevant information and support resources for students.

Student Life:

- Two new grants have been secured to help expand student support services.
- Hiring a grant-funded counselor to increase capacity for student mental health support.

Mental Health & Wellness Training:

- Mental Health First Aid Training
 - Monday, March 16 and Tuesday, March 17 (Spring Break): for faculty and staff, with a separate location for students
- QPR Suicide Prevention Training
 - Available for faculty, staff, and students.
 - Attend March 18 or March 24.
- Student Incentive
 - Students who complete either training are eligible for a \$90 stipend.

Student Support Resources:

- Greater Chicago Food Depository will be on campus March 10.
 - Providing free one-on-one assistance with:
 - Public benefits
 - Community resources

Emergency Aid Support:

- Troy Safe Haven Program received grant funding.
- Funds are being used to pay vendor partners directly to support students with emergency needs such as:
 - Rent/landlord payments
 - Utility bills
 - Transportation
 - Childcare
 - Other essential expenses

V. Business and Facilities Committee – Colleen Rockafellow

Athletics:

- Region IV Men's and Women's Basketball Teams are currently competing in the semifinals.
- The wrestling team recently competed at national championships.
- Baseball and softball seasons have officially started.

Marketing & Communications:

- Upcoming Triton Car Show promotion in progress.
- Continuing Education Summer Guide being finalized and prepared for distribution in the community.
- The credit course schedule has been distributed on campus.
- Communications launched a campaign announcing Triton's Leader College designation through Achieving the Dream.
- Focus on new student success profiles across web and print channels.
- Supported ICCB video features Triton's Electric Vehicle program and faculty.
- Ongoing efforts to increase college visibility through storytelling videos and marketing initiatives.

Financial Aid Outreach:

- Financial Aid pop-up stations scheduled throughout March.
- Locations include the cafeteria, campus buildings, and walkways to answer student questions and provide any assistance.

Alumni Engagement:

- Launching the "Reconnect Your Story" campaign.
- Packing the Place event with Athletics was successful and exceeded last year's attendance.
- The bookstore participated in events for the first time, selling Triton merchandise to alumni.
- Upcoming event: Reunion at the Ballpark
 - March 27 at 6:00 PM.

VI. Human Resources/DEI Committee – Joe Klinger (*via email*)

- Heritage Committee Event:
 - Celebrating Irish Heritage Month and Greek Heritage Month.
 - Event includes a team activity/game: "Is that Greek or Irish History?" and additional surprises.
 - Opportunity for community engagement and cultural appreciation among staff.
 - Date & Time: Wednesday, March 25, 2:30 – 3:30 PM.

VII. Technology Representative – Mike Garrity

Network Infrastructure:

- 200 new wireless access points were received at the beginning of the year.
- Approximately 90 access points have been deployed so far.
- Deployment will continue building by building until all are installed.

Website Redesign Project:

- Project phases have included surveys, design, and site development.

- The current focus now is migrating content from the existing website to the new platform.
- Vendor developed a script to copy content, followed by testing and fixing issues after each transfer.
- Each testing cycle takes about one week to review and correct errors.
- Hoping to complete the final migration iteration soon.
- Once content is transferred:
 - Teams will build new pages (e.g., homepage).
 - About 98% of the website content will be migrated from the current site.
- After launch, departments will be able to reimagine and update their pages using the new design features.
- A campus-wide announcement will be made when the new website goes live.

Curriculum Management System:

- Ongoing migration from Watermark to Acadia Curricunet for curriculum management and catalog.
- Project team is meeting weekly.
- Target launch date: May.

Continuing Education Technology:

- Continuing Education purchased implementation services from Ellucian for Instant Enrollment (allows students to register and pay for courses online).
- Already included in the Ellucian license, this is a new version running on Self-Service (previous attempt 10 years ago was discontinued).
- Implementation is expected to begin later this spring.

Adult Education Systems:

- Adult Ed application through Recruit is in development.

Athletics Technology:

- Installed a new HUDL camera at the softball field.
- The HUDL cameras are already installed at:
 - Track and field
 - Baseball field
- These cameras allow live streaming of athletic events.

VIII. Guided Pathways Representative – Shelley Tiwari

Guest speaker: Tom Panas, Director of Financial Aid

Scholarships & Guided Pathways:

- Financial aid and scholarships are important components in helping students enter and stay on an academic pathway.

Scholarship Overview:

- Key scholarship categories include:
 - Trustee Scholars
 - Foundation Scholarships
- Updates to the Trustee Honors program have led to significant growth over the past five years.

New Scholarship Platform:

- Implemented a streamlined scholarship application system.
- Use Single Sign-On (SSO) for easier student access.
- Students complete one general application (5–10 minutes).
- The system automatically matches students with eligible scholarships.

Platform Features:

- Automated reminders for incomplete applications.
- Ability to send email and text notifications to students.
- Reporting tools to track where students stop in the application process.
- Data used to improve and simplify the application experience.

Future Enhancements:

- Plans to implement rubrics and auto-scoring to help reviewers quickly identify top applicants based on criteria such as GPA.

Application Growth:

- 1,092 scholarship applications submitted so far this year.
- Applications have tripled since implementing the improved system.

Federal Policy Impact:

- Discussion of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBA) and potential scholarship impacts.
- Students whose non-federal aid equals their cost of attendance may see adjustments to Pell Grant eligibility.
- Impact on Triton is expected to be minimal because calculations are based on cost of attendance rather than tuition.

Next Steps:

- Continue monitoring application data and student participation.
- Explore reporting on unused scholarship funds and opportunities to increase student access.

IX. Old Business**FY26 Goals Update:****Technology Goal:**

- Continued work on moving Adult Education to the Recruit platform to improve systems and processes.

Student Success Goal

- Operational Assembly leading process improvement efforts to reduce barriers to completion.
- This work will be highlighted at the upcoming Strategic Plan Showcase.
- 22% increase in both students and programs awarded due to auto-award procedures (FY26 to date, including summer and fall).
- 188 students and 197 programs awarded this fiscal year through the initiative.
- Since Summer 2024 (five terms): 692 students awarded and 783 programs awarded
- Demonstrates strong direct impact on student completion and recognition.

Infrastructure & Compliance Goal

- AI privacy recommendations were presented to the President and Executive Team.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 2:51 PM

Next Meeting Date:

Monday, April 13th, 2026

Time: 2:30–4:00 PM

Submitted by Xavier Skinner