

## **CALL TO ORDER**

President Moore called College Council to session at 2:04 p.m. in B-204.

## **ATTENDEES**

Council Members Present: Mary-Rita Moore, Frank Alvino, Purva DeVol, Beth Dunn, Joe Klinger, Shekinah Lawrence, Jason Lemberg, Hilary Meyer, Ty Perkins, Colleen Rockafellow, Shelley Tiwari, Kurian Tharakunnel

Council Members Absent: Mark Kouria, Maria Solorio, Mary Wink

Others present: Jeanette Bartley, Gregg Beglau, Mary Casey-Incardone, Paul Jensen, Denise Jones, Brenda Jones Watkins, Justyna Kohtz, Tina Lilly, Troy Moran, Melissa Ramirez Cooper, Alexandria Terrazas, Leslie Wester, Nicole Zumpano

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Meyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Klinger, to approve the minutes from the regular Council meeting of December 16, as amended. Voice vote carried the motion unanimously.

## **HOT TOPICS**

None.

## **OPERATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

Dean Meyer provided the following highlights.

The 2024 Fact Book is now available online. The FET/Local 399 semester started on January 6. The Adult Education Department is now accepting applications for a Completion & Transition Specialist vacancy. An extensive discussion about Early College included the Dual Enrollment Career Academy new programs (from 4 to 14) and support resources available for the dual degree students. All students from local high schools currently participating in the dual degree program are on their path to graduation.

From Arts & Sciences, the Associate in Engineering Science (AES) degree program begins Fall 2025. It will offer guaranteed admission to select students to UIUC's Grainger School of Engineering upon completion of requirements.

In the area of Student Affairs, the ETRC is up and running in the library, providing tech support. The library is currently offering Academic Coaching and is looking to pilot a Silent Book Club event that will allow community members to read books of their choice silently together. Many offerings celebrating Black History Month available through February – the event schedule is available on our website.

The college is observing positive trends in both credit and non-credit headcount. Kudos for college-wide efforts supporting our enrollment.

Troy-Rides, service powered by Lyft for students facing urgent circumstances, is again available, providing up to two emergency rides from home to school, clinicals, or work within a 12-mile radius.

A number of events have been scheduled for February, including workshops and activities promoting Financial Aid resources, Transfer Center events, and meetings supporting student mental health and wellness.

From IT, the Smart Board refresh project is now complete. The Gainful Employment report deadline was met thanks to the efforts of Financial Aid and IT teams. W2s and 1098Ts are being distributed. Interviews for the Coordinator of Degree Audit position have been scheduled.

### **ACADEMIC SENATE**

Senate Chair Dunn reported that the Senate has not met yet this year (first meeting of 2025 on February 11). She also mentioned that the Senate website has been updated, including the new meeting link in Ultra.

### **STUDENT SUCCESS**

Shelley Tiwari invited Gregg Beglau to present an overview of Guided Pathways from the perspective of the Adult Education Department and English language learners. Mr. Beglau talked extensively about the funding, available support services, as well as many challenges of his student population. He further explored the opportunities of the Gear Up program, with its many local occupations (including Microsoft Office Specialist, Pharmacy tech, Welding, and Automotive) offering family sustainable wage. He emphasized the role of Completion & Transition Specialists and Adult Ed instructors who provide daily assistance by first clarifying the path to ensure students enter the path, stay on their path, and, finally - learn and make progress.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Colleen Rockafellow, Purva DeVol, Hilary Meyer, and Paul Jensen provided a mid-year progress report on the Strategic Plan Goal 2 - cultivating a diverse, equitable, and inclusive work environment that fosters employee engagement to support students; and Goal 3 - strengthening the college's relationships with the community and prepare students to enter the local workforce. The presenters highlighted their action plans, steps taken so far and KPI targets for each goal.

Ms. Rockafellow began her presentation with an update of the Goal 2 Action Plan that focuses on strengthening cross-departmental communication with opportunities for dialogue and reflection. Her committee has taken appropriate steps to build a sense of community among current employees. So far, the college has held 10 unique open houses featuring staff and services of various departments. An onboarding process for new employees has also been redesigned to build a sense of community among new staff and demonstrate an institutional commitment to collaboration. Finally, the committee is exploring different opportunities and

avenues to educate employees on current community college trends and topics of interest in higher education.

Ms. DeVol presented a high-level overview of the employee engagement survey that will be administered as part of the Action Plan 2 work, and will gather critical data for the state of Illinois Equity Plan & Triton initiatives. The results will become available in the summer and will inform ongoing employee engagement and equity strategies. This nation-wide survey is optional and confidential and will be sent to all Triton employee groups (not student workers) early March.

Ms. Meyer presented an action plan of the Neurodiversity Committee, focusing on the selective transfer cohort program for students who identify as neurodivergent. The program would include creating a physical community center for neurodiversity, with all resources and employer partners committed to engaging in the center, as well as developing neuroinclusive Transfer Center programming to be held in the library in Spring 2025 and piloting a social event with district families also this spring.

Mr. Jensen concluded the Strategic Plan Goal 3 update with a detailed summary of Action Plan 2, which is accelerating credentialing and advancement in the workforce for adult students. The extensive work of the committee includes:

1. reviewing and revising prior learning assessment (PLA) practices
  - credential to course competencies crosswalk
  - revision of PLA Board Policy “Acceptance of Academic Credit”
  - development of model proficiency exam/portfolio assessment process, student PLA request form, and a webpage
  - PLA rubric draft in progress
2. developing a competency-based Education (CBE) instruction model
  - Welding CBE model (with 11 one-credit courses, open lab, and draft proposals for registration and financial aid processes, facilities design, assessment process and transcription)
3. biannual roundtable reports with guidance on strategies for better serving adult students
  - creating College for Working Adults webpage
  - establishing Career Services’ employer advisory group.

Items for group discussion: Student awareness is key - what channels are available to promote PLA to the college community?

#### **NEXT MEETING**

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

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Rockafellow made a motion, seconded by Ms. DeVol , to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote carried the motion unanimously. College Council was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.