

## **CALL TO ORDER**

President Moore called College Council to session at 2:02 p.m. in B-204.

## **ATTENDEES**

Council Members Present: Mary-Rita Moore, Frank Alvino, Purva DeVol, Beth Dunn, Joe Klinger, Jason Lemberg, Shelley Tiwari, Kurian Tharakunnel, Mary Wink

Council Members Absent: Mark Kouria, Shekinah Lawrence, Hilary Meyer, Ty Perkins, Colleen Rockafellow, Maria Solorio

Others present: Jeanette Bartley, Susan Campos, Mary Casey-Incardone, Humberto Espino, Lorena Gasca, Lisa Huff, Denise Jones, Brenda Jones Watkins, Jodi Koslow Martin, Troy Moran, Melissa Ramirez Cooper, Susan Rohde, Carina Santoyo, Nicole Zumpano

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Lemberg made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tiwari, to approve the minutes from the regular Council meeting of January 27. Voice vote carried the motion unanimously.

## **HOT TOPICS**

President Moore encouraged the meeting participants to complete the Employee Engagement Survey that was released in early March. She also asked to spread the word among Triton employees to ensure feedback from different employee groups and departments. Last time when a similar survey was rolled out, only 200 (out of 1,100, employees) participated. President Moore pointed out that, due to a Barracuda Networks glitch, the announcement with the unique link may have gone to a junk e-mail.

## **OPERATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

On behalf of Dean Meyer, Ms. DeVol provided the report on various college activities and initiatives, highlighting the Brown Bag Lunch and The Landscape, Re-Imagined gallery reception that took place on March 5, showcasing an exhibition that challenges traditional views of landscape art. Early College program has experienced significant growth, with enrollment nearly tripling from the Fall 2024 semester. High schools participating in the dual degree program include Elmwood Park, East and West Leyden, Proviso East and West, PMSA, and Ridgewood, with programs like Barbering, Criminal Justice, Dental Assisting, EMT, Education, EKG, Fire Science, HVAC, CAN, Optician Training, Physical Therapy Aide, Sports Conditioning, and Welding. The CAAS team is providing academic coaching in the library, available to all students. They are also matching SEED students with employers, both on campus and externally. Through an expanded partnership with Parchment, starting with the Spring 2025 commencement diplomas will be mailed directly to students and will also be available online. IT team is working with Modern Campus on the development of a new website; upgrading to Colleague 6.0 and Self Service 3.0; and bringing the mobile app back, after employees and students expressed interest. IT is also partnering with Admissions on the Common App

initiative, to allow students to apply to multiple schools through a single platform. In the area of Equity & Inclusion, multiple events scheduled on campus throughout March celebrating Women's History as well as Irish and Greek Heritage, including inspiring talks from faculty and staff, craft sessions, and a cooking demonstration. The Heritage Committee is also bringing awareness to Developmental Disabilities with a film screening and discussion.

### **ACADEMIC SENATE**

Senate Chair Dunn provided the highlights from the last Senate meeting that was held on March 6. The Cosmetology Certificate, with 17 new Cosmetology courses, is now available. There are many course updates and curriculum revisions, as well as changes in the Senate bylaws. The lactation room is now available in the B Building. From the Student Development, Ms. Dunn highlighted the Trivia event that was held on February 3 in the Cafeteria and the annual Blood Drive that will held on campus with the Vitalant Blood Donation bus on April 10. The Professional Development Committee will collaborate with CTE on next year's Faculty In-Service event, focusing on the theme of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. From the Assessment Committee, Assessment Day is scheduled on Friday, April 11, and registration is open on the CTE website. Christian Garcia, the new Director for Curriculum and Assessment, has been working closely with faculty on quick course corrections and has offered support for any faculty related concerns and issues, particularly with the watermark system. The OETC Committee met on February 26 and discussed the new ADA law, focusing on strategies and guidelines to help faculty make their courses compliant. They also addressed the addition of new course modalities, with faculty interested in options beyond online and hybrid. From announcements, Dennis McNamara is stepping down from the Scholastic Academy Chair position at the conclusion of this academic year.

### **STUDENT SUCCESS**

Ms. Gasca from Career Services presented a career milestone checklist that was created based on the Guided Pathway framework. She started with a brief summary of Guided Pathways elaborating on four pillars that help students complete a degree in a timely fashion. The first pillar clarifies the academic path. Attending various career exploration workshops, industry panels, or one-on-one coaching sessions helps students explore their options and choose a direction. The second pillar enables students enter the path by connecting them to multiple resources, like onboarding and first-year courses, or training sessions tailored to early career steps. The third pillar supports persistence and retention. Job search assistance, career guidance for students at risk of stopping out, or collaboration with academic advising are only a few examples of support being offered to students to ensure they stay on their path. Further, Ms. Gasca provided an in-depth summary of Career Services' student facing approach which guides them through each semester. She talked extensively about the four-semester map (the new checklist) created to support college students from the very beginning of their educational journey. In semester 1 & 2, students get ready by exploring career options. Semester 3 allows

them to gain experience to develop their career. Semester 4 has been designed in a way to refine their skills and prepare them for long-term career success. The presentation ended with a group discussion about next steps and cross-departmental collaboration to support degree completion, career readiness, and job placement.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Common App**

Ms. Santoyo gave a brief summary of the Common App, which is an undergraduate college admission application that allows students to apply to over 1,000 member colleges and universities through a single platform. She further explained the benefits of the Common App: 1) simplified application process – it reduces time and effort of completing an application for each school, and 2) seamless transitions - it ensures a smoother transition from two-year to four-year institutions. Triton College is part of the second cohort, and still in the implementation phase with several steps, including kickoff, application configuration, testing, data import/export, assessment, and final review. The launch is scheduled for August 1, 2025. The information about the Common App at Triton College will soon be available on the college website.

### **College Council Goal 2 Presentation**

Ms. DeVol invited College Council Goal 2 Subcommittee members to provide a high-level overview of potential applications and risks of Artificial Intelligence (AI) within the college. Mr. Alvino started off with a thorough description of different types of generative AI (including models, training data, pattern recognition, and content generation). He explained how AI is transforming organizations with personalized learning, AI tutors, smart course recommendations, AI-driven scheduling, chatbots, and process automation, as well as AI-powered data analysis and AI-enhanced teaching tools; all leading to increased productivity and effectiveness on a personal and institutional level.

Next, Ms. Wink, discussed in more detail practical applications of AI in note taking. She mentioned Otter.AI, a tool available to Triton staff through CAAS office, that records classes, meetings, and conversations in real time, and produces almost verbatim transcripts with an overview and action items. She pointed out that, although Otter's transcripts may not be always accurate, they require little effort from a skilled human to polish and correct them.

Ms. Tiwari elaborated further on AI possible uses in the area of teaching and learning, like creating lesson plans, enhancing syllabus, and generating course assignments, just to name a few. Ms. Tiwari emphasized that both students and faculty, as AI users, should be able to understand and evaluate AI tools and use them critically and ethically.

Lastly, Mr. Tharakunnel highlighted possible risks and limitations of AI in terms of accuracy, security, legal issues, and sustainability. He stressed that, although incredibly useful and faster at work than a human being, GenAI presents many barriers and restrictions. The presentation

ended with an open discussion about how AI practices can enhance overall productivity and effectiveness of individual employees and the college as a whole.

#### Federal Communications

President Moore reported that the change of the administration at the federal level brought many shifts in government policy and organizational restructuring. She provided a high-level overview of where we are, as a college, and how the college leaders have prioritized staying informed and dialogue with others in the State of Illinois, associations and higher education professionals. She mentioned the “Dear Colleague” letter, released by the U.S. Department of Education on February 14, 2025, that provided some guidance to the institutions receiving federal funds, with instructions to review their policies and practices in order to ensure compliance with existing civil rights laws. The letter did not introduce anything new, but articulated that more direction will be provided at a later date. President Moore emphasized that Triton College remains in compliance and will proceed with regular business. She stressed that such communication leaves uncertainty and anxiety, but she assured that we are going to stay the course – we are not changing anything or doing things differently. We continue what we are doing to fulfill our mission, which is educating and serving our community, while recognizing and respecting each student's unique needs and potential.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of College Council is on April 21, 2025 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in B204/210.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Tharakunnel made a motion, seconded by Ms. DeVol, to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote carried the motion unanimously. College Council was adjourned at 3:58 p.m.