

CALL TO ORDER

President Moore called College Council to session at 2:07 p.m. in the Boardroom A-300.

ATTENDEES

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

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

Others present: Susan Campos, Mary Casey-Incardone, Denise Jones, Brenda Jones Watkins

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Lemberg made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tiwari, to approve the minutes from the regular Council meeting of April 21, 2025. Voice vote carried the motion unanimously.

HOT TOPICS

None

OPERATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Dean Meyer reported that the committee met on May 12 and provided an update on current activities and initiatives. For Academic Success, she highlighted a successful end-of-year celebration for Student Life, TRIUMPH & SURGE, and TRIO; and the redesign of Academic Support Syllabus Supplement for summer. In the area of Retention and Student Engagement, the first registration rally to kick off summer and fall enrollment initiatives took place on May 14. Our Testing Center is actively administering final exams and conducting placement testing for incoming summer and fall students. While Advisors continue to support students with summer and fall course selection, the Transfer Center staff are working with students on transfer planning. The Triton's Commencement was held on May 17 - a big thank you to all faculty and staff involved in planning and executing the event. For Admissions, Ms. Meyer mentioned registration rally - campus tours that are scheduled on May 14 in the B Building, as well as forthcoming group visits that include Mannheim Middle School, Melrose Park Community Event, and Phoenix Academy. On IT front, weekly collaboration with Modern Campus for website development continues. Additionally, the migration of six major platforms supporting our application and scholarship processes, as well as tutoring management and wireless infrastructure, is scheduled to be completed by the end of July. From DEI, a successful event celebrating Haitian Heritage took place on May 14 in the pavilion area. Preparations are underway for Pride Month events, including the college's first Pride Picnic on June 24. In the area of Research, Ms. Meyer reported that this year's Student Satisfaction Survey participation (950 responses) is significantly higher than last year's (701). She also shared that High School Market Share and Placement Reports for Class of 2024 are now available on our portal.

ACADEMIC SENATE

Senate Chair Dunn reported that the committee met on May 15 and highlighted numerous projects and activities, including creating a new Education and Policy subcommittee devoted to AI, to be voted on in September. She reminded that the Academic and Scholastic Standards chair position is still vacant. For College Curriculum, she reported that there are changes in HTH, SRT, and SOC courses and a new curriculum for Hybrid and Electric Vehicle Service Technician program. The Student Development subcommittee is looking forward to partnering with other committees on the events bringing faculty, students, and community together. Planning is underway for another Blood Drive in spring 2026, Karaoke event in the fall, and Trivia event in the fall and spring. The Campus Quality talked about the new lactation room and family bathrooms – many thanks to all involved in this project. The subcommittee also discussed creating a survey so faculty can present anonymous suggestions. DEI theme was confirmed for the fall faculty workshop - Professional Development subcommittee is working on the agenda in collaboration with CTE and Academic Affairs. In the area of Assessment, the handbook has been updated to reflect changes in the assessment cycle; available on the Assessment page on the portal. Next meeting of the Senate is scheduled on September 9.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Mr. Tharakunnel provided a high-level overview of Early Student Engagement, with an in-depth understanding of the SENSE (Survey of Entering Student Engagement) 2024 results that are now available on our portal. He explained that Triton College was one of 158 institutions that participated in SENSE 2024 cohort, and confirmed that, out of 596 Triton credit students that responded, 350 were new students. Mr. Tharakunnel further elaborated on the six standardized benchmarks that help us compare ourselves to other institutions nationwide. These benchmarks include Early Connections; High Expectations and Aspirations; Clear Academic Plan and Pathway; Effective Track to College Readiness; Engaged Learning; and Academic and Social Support Network. The presentation triggered a group discussion about Triton's performance in terms of student involvement, interest, and effort in their learning process. The meeting participants tried to identify potential strategies to improve our score, including engaged learning and teaching practices incorporating group projects, class discussions or real-world examples. Ms. Dunn asked that the survey results are shared widely, with all Triton College faculty members, with an emphasis on the areas where we excel and do well, to acknowledge our current work and our potential. Mr. Lemberg commented that the data could be further separated based on age and enrollment status (full-time vs. part-time). Finally, Ms. Lawrence questioned the validity and relevance of some questions used in the survey. How often are these questions updated to ensure they accurately reflect the intended concepts and provide meaningful data? In essence, the presentation provided a valuable opportunity for reflection about critical elements of student success within Triton's learning environment.

OTHER

President Moore commented that from the faculty College Council representative there were two faculty inquiries, one regarding the college budget and resource allocation, which was directed to the area dean, and the second related to AI. Ms. Moore expressed her enthusiasm for the start and work of a subcommittee focused on Artificial Intelligence (AI).

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of College Council is on June 16, 2025 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in B204/210.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Dunn made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tiwari, to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote carried the motion unanimously. College Council was adjourned at 3:03 p.m.