

CALL TO ORDER

President Moore called College Council to session at 2:03 p.m. in B204-210.

ATTENDEES

Council Members Present: Mary-Rita Moore, Andrew Blahut, Purva DeVol, Shawntrae Douglas, Beth Dunn, Agnes Kozielska, Shekinah Lawrence, Jason Lemberg, Hilary Meyer, Kurian Tharakunnel, Shelley Tiwari

Council Members Absent: Frank Alvino, Dmytriy Havrylyak, Mel Loucks, Colleen Rockafellow

Others present: Jeanette Bartley, Susan Campos, Christina Garcia, Justyna Kohtz, Jodi Koslow-Martin, Tina Lilly, Melissa Ramirez Cooper, Jo Perez, Antigone Sharris, Michael Thunberg, David Velazquez, Brenda Watkins, Nicole Zumpano

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Meyer made a motion, seconded by Dr. DeVol, to approve the minutes from the regular Council meeting of June 16, 2025 and Council retreat of July 28, 2025. Voice vote carried the motion unanimously.

HOT TOPICS

Antigone Sharris, engineering faculty, shared insights on improving course scheduling. She revisited concerns first raised in 2018, emphasizing the need for more flexible, student-centered scheduling. Ms. Sharris identified three key challenges: an unengaging website, a rigid internal scheduling system that limits course visibility, and outdated scheduling practices that don't reflect the current student population; with about 70% of students attending part-time and over 40% older than 22, most classes still support traditional daytime students, with only 15–20% offered in the evening. Ms. Sharris also noted a lack of block scheduling, making it difficult for students to build efficient course plans. She asked for a coordinated, campus-wide effort to fix these issues, noting that overly siloed systems and too much reliance on technology are leaving students without clear pathways. More human engagement, better communication, and smarter use of data could help guide students to open, equivalent courses and boost overall enrollment. President Moore acknowledged challenges in course scheduling and the college's progress in addressing the scheduling needs of all students.

OPERATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Dean Meyer provided a detailed summary as follows: The college welcomed its first cohort of students for the Associate of Engineering Science degree this fall, with the addition of a new automotive instructor. Early College sections for the Dental Assistant and Physical Therapy Aide programs also launched through a new partnership, and an EKG Technician cohort is planned for Spring 2026, with growing student interest. In Continuing Education, the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation approved the division to offer the Field Event Exam for home inspection students. The Volunteer Literacy Grant from the Secretary of State was

renewed for another year, and the Access to Literacy Program continues to offer free tutoring in reading, writing, math, and conversational English. The Westlake Element Care Scholarship was renewed for five more years, benefiting Adult Education students pursuing healthcare credentials, and a new Microsoft Office Specialist IET course was introduced.

In the Health Careers area, the barber/cosmetology salon was completed, and the Nursing Department welcomed two new faculty members, a new chair for the Nursing Assistant program, and additional support staff. ESL class registration was recently held off-site to improve access to language instruction. In Student Affairs, a search is underway for a Director of Admissions, and two new advisors have joined, one for the TRIUMPH and SURGE programs and another for the Transfer Center. Welcome Week featured three days of activities with strong student participation. Upcoming events include the Corn Roast on September 17 and Movie on the Mound on September 26. The retention alert system has been rebranded as "Student Report Referrals," improving resource connections and messaging. Jason Lemberg is the faculty contact for this initiative. The AIM system is now fully functional in the Center for Access and Accommodative Services, enhancing communication regarding accommodations. The Academic Success Center has transitioned from TutorTrac to the more user-friendly TracCloud system. Dean Meyer reminded attendees that the ETRC department has been dissolved, with all former services now handled by the library, including tech support and MFA assistance. The laptop lending program remains active, but mobile hotspots are no longer available.

From Business Services, campus police completed active threat training, and Acting Chief Andrew Morales is available to consult with departments on safety planning. New safety resources, including a health services video and preparedness brochure, have been developed. Facility improvements include a new projector at the Cernan Earth and Space Center, new barber/cosmetology and HVAC labs, and mechanical system upgrades in the A and J Buildings. Repairs are ongoing across campus, including concrete work and pipe replacements, and the R Building roof replacement is scheduled for summer 2027, with theater renovations under consideration. Fifth Avenue paving has been completed, and the North Avenue bus shelter has been repaired. On the finance side, the team is conducting the daily nonpayment drop, managing the on-site audit, and finalizing the FY26 budget.

In Marketing, Media, and Communications, all project requests should now be submitted through the portal due to high demand. The website redesign is in its final stages, and the latest continuing education and credit schedules have been mailed. The department is actively supporting strategic plan promotion and new program awareness. Recent media engagement includes a WGN campus visit on August 13 and increased radio station activity, with live-streaming capabilities under consideration. In Financial Aid, the degree audit system has officially launched, and the new Troy Safe Haven program is supporting housing-unstable students with childcare and financial assistance. In the technology division, Joe Perez was recognized for compiling the IT report. System improvements were implemented, a minor

portal outage was resolved, and new portal cards (including HR and Microsoft OneDrive) were added. Software updates were also completed for the Colleague and Self-Service systems.

Heritage Committee initiatives continue with several events planned for Hispanic Heritage Month: a display on Hispanic architects (September 24), a literary read-in (October 1), and a cultural celebration with food and games (September 18). Under the Guided Pathways initiative, Shekinah McCullum-Lawrence introduced "Troy Campus Quest," an interactive game designed to engage new and early college students. Dean Meyer also reported that six to seven institutional reports were submitted on time to the Illinois Community College Board, thanks to the Research team. Additionally, Dmytriy Havrylak, the new TCSA President and student representative, will begin attending meetings next month. The Operational Assembly is in the process of finalizing its FY26 goals, which will align with the college's new strategic plan. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 8, in the upper level of the library.

ACADEMIC SENATE

Beth Dunn provided several important announcements during her report. All chair positions for the Academic Senate subcommittees have been successfully filled. The Senate is also in the process of reviewing its bylaws and will be voting on proposed changes to establish a new subcommittee focused on AI education and policy. The first Academic Senate meeting of the semester is scheduled for September 9 at 2:30 PM and will take place on Blackboard Ultra. Additionally, the second meeting is October 21.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Shelly Tiwari presented the Student Success Report, highlighting ongoing efforts to support ADA compliance. Nicole Zumpano, Director of Distance Learning, shared updates on new Title II regulations from the Department of Justice, which require all digital content, whether internal or external, student-facing or departmental to be fully accessible by April 2026. The college has set an internal goal to meet this standard by January 1, 2026. Zumpano emphasized that accessibility is essential to student success. Accessible design benefits not only students with disabilities but also those with temporary challenges, limited tech access, or different learning environments. To support this effort, the Office of Distance Learning and CTE are offering weekly accessibility tips in the CTE newsletter and on the ODL SharePoint page. Open lab office hours are available for both faculty and staff needing guidance. Workshops on accessibility are being offered through the CTE by various stakeholders, and 13 computers equipped with Adobe Acrobat are available to help remediate PDFs. Data from the 2025 Blackboard Ally accessibility report is being used to identify common problem areas and direct instructional design support. An accessibility checklist is also being distributed to provide practical guidance, and a dedicated listserv has been created to respond to accessibility related questions. Zumpano stressed that accessibility is a shared, institution wide responsibility.

OLD BUSINESS

Dr. DeVol emphasized that each year, College Council establishes goals aligned with its advisory role on institutional initiatives such as grants, student success measures, and accreditation. This year's goals that may closely align with the recently launched strategic plan were a major focus of the Council retreat. The three proposed goals aim to: (1) improve student retention and completion, (2) strengthen organizational health, operational efficiency, and employee engagement (3) leverage technology innovations to advance learning, streamline operations, and support the college's mission. A tentative framework has been developed, incorporating learning sessions tied to each goal. Members were asked to provide feedback and indicate whether they support moving forward. Beth Dunn requested that the innovation and technology goal be moved earlier in the semester to better align with ADA compliance deadlines and to ensure access to tools that support accessibility and student success. Jason Lemberg suggested exploring how the college might support access to AI tools by providing licenses for faculty, staff, and students, similar to existing software licensing models. After receiving further feedback, the Council will vote to finalize goals at the September meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Kurian Tharakunnel presented highlights from the Spring 2025 Student Satisfaction Survey. The survey, administered to over 9,000 credit and non-credit students (excluding dual credit and under-18 students), received 885 responses—a 10.4% response rate, slightly up from 2023. This year, the survey was distributed via general links and QR codes rather than individual emails, which improved access but limited demographic tracking. Key findings include 91% overall student satisfaction and 81% satisfaction with faculty and staff interactions. Notable improvements were seen in student services, with advising (+16 points), admissions (+9), and billing (+11) showing the most progress. Two new questions revealed that 65% of students have used generative AI tools, and 54% took at least one eight-week course, mainly for faster completion and flexible scheduling. Finally, 96% of students said they would recommend Triton, a figure steady for the past five years. The full report will be available on the research portal.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of College Council is on September, 15, 2025 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in B204/210.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Meyer made a motion, seconded by Dr. DeVol, to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote carried the motion unanimously. College Council was adjourned at 3:22 p.m.