

CALL TO ORDER

President Moore called College Council to session at 2:02 p.m. in B204-210.

ATTENDEES

Council Members Present: Mary-Rita Moore, Purva DeVol, Shawntrae Douglas, Beth Dunn, Zelda Fredette, Jason Guevarra, Jason Lemberg, Dawn Muhammad, Colleen Rockafellow, Mel Seaton, Kurian Tharakunnel

Council Members Absent: Dmytriy Havrylyak, Shekinah Lawrence, Hilary Meyer, Shelley Tiwari

Others present: Jeanette Bartley, Gregg Beglau, Mary Casey-Incardone, Lisa Huff, Justyna Kohtz, Tina Lilly, Melissa Ramirez Cooper, Rebecca Fournier, Michael Thunberg, Felicia Townsend, Brenda J. Watkins, Julia Willis, Nicole Zumpano.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Rockafellow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Fredette to approve the minutes from the regular Council meeting of December 15, 2025. Voice vote carried the motion unanimously.

HOT TOPICS

President Moore welcomed the council's newest members, Dawn Muhammad, representing the adjunct faculty, and Jason Guevarra, representing the hourly employee group. She also announced that item number V. on the agenda would be postponed until next month's meeting.

OPERATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Kurian Tharakunnel presented the Operational Assembly report on behalf of Dean Meyer. The Research department announced the release of the 2025 Fact Sheet and Fact Book reports, now available on the Employee Portal. These reports provide institutional statistics covering the most recent 5-year period, including data on academic programs, student enrollment, graduates, student success, financial aid, facilities and finance. It was noted that Triton currently has 132 active academic programs, consisting of 92 certificates and 40-degree programs.

Academic Affairs reported on a 10-day international research expedition for students participating in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Student Experience Abroad Ships (STEMSEAS) program. The expedition took place on the Atlantic Ocean aboard a National Science Foundation (NSF) funded research vessel. Under the mentorship of Dr. Sheldon Turner, students engaged in hands on geoscience and oceanography research activities as part of an immersive learning experience. Student Affairs announced \$25,000 in funding to support the Troy Safe Haven Program. The program is dedicated to assisting students with housing, financial, and basic needs support through partnership with local shelters, hotels, and service providers. This effort helps ensure that students are able to continue their education without disruption.

Business and Facilities announced the installation of new cooling equipment in Buildings A and J, as well as new flooring for the lower level of Building A. Information Technology (IT) reported that they are collaborating with Ellucian to implement online enrollment for Continuing Education (CE) class registration, eliminating the need for paper forms.

ACADEMIC SENATE

Beth Dunn provided the following updates. The Curriculum committee reported numerous course revisions. Academic support indicated that 15 faculty members are participating in a Blackboard pilot for grades and attendance updates. The committee also discussed professional development related to support referrals. Academic and Scholastic Standards Committee (ASSC) continues to work on the forgiveness procedure, with a vote expected at the next meeting. Additionally, the committee has begun reviewing the course cancellation procedure.

Student Development reported three events scheduled for the Spring Semester:

- March 11 – Trivia Event
- April 8 – Blood Drive
- May 6 - Lunch in Conversation

Assessment Committee announced that Frances Figg has been appointed as the new Chair and that the committee is preparing for Learning Improvement Day and Assessment Day in April. Professional Development is reviewing survey results from the Spring Teaching and Learning Day and faculty award applications. The Online Education and Teaching Committee (OETC) announced a new leader, Beth Cliffel. Lastly, the AI committee will be hosting a Future Forward Fair on AI innovation on April 14.

STUDENT SUCCESS:

Dean Willis presented an update on Triton College's Troy Care Collective, a student support network helping students meet basic needs and stay on track academically. The presentation highlighted Troy Mart, which provides free food and personal care items, and Troy Rides, a student transportation service to campus, work and or clinical sites. The Troy Safe Haven Program provides emergency housing, financial assistance for rent and utilities, and childcare support for students facing housing instability.

The Troy Care Collective network also includes the Troy Style Station, the on-campus clothing closet offers professional and casual attire for interviews, internships, and everyday needs. The Troy Tech Program provides loans for laptops, calculators, headphones, and other essential technology to students with demonstrated need. Dean Willis presented data that included over 1,000 students served through Troy Mart, 270 rides provided via Troy Rides, and dozens of students have accessed services for Safe Haven, many receiving emergency level support.

OLD BUSINESS: Innovation and Technology Goal Recommendation

Dr. DeVol shared College Council's recommendations on the Innovation and Technology goal with the President. She noted that the Council's focus this year aligns with the FY26-FY30

Strategic Plan goals: Innovation and Technology, Student Success and Institutional Sustainability.

Dr. DeVol further noted that the Council concluded its learning sessions on the Innovation and Technology goal in December. Following those sessions and deliberation, the Council reached agreement on the following two recommendations for the President's consideration.

1. Leverage AI as an Analytic and Improvement Tool to Support Employee-Driven Systems

- The Council recommends that the League of Innovation AI Fellows build on what they've learned and work with the AI Education and Policy Committee, relevant departments, and other campus areas with AI expertise to support ongoing improvement of employee-managed academic and operational processes, including the use of both generative and predictive/analytic AI where appropriate.

2. Coordinate Innovation & technology Efforts Through the Strategic Plan

- The Council recommends unifying AI, automation, broader technology and process-improvement initiatives under the Strategic Plan to reduce duplication and ensure investments support measurable institutional outcomes.

These recommendations reflect the Council's review of institutional priorities and are intended to strengthen strategic alignment within the Innovation and Technology goal. The Council will now be shifting its focus to the Institutional Sustainability goal, with learning sessions planned for the next scheduled meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of College Council is on March 23, 2026, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in B204/210.

OTHER

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. DeVol made a motion, seconded by Ms. Fredette, to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote carried the motion unanimously. College Council was adjourned at 2:33 p.m.