

President's Advisory Council
Thursday, October 14 2021
4 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
Zoom

Present: Amy Brendmoen, Naod Abraha, Jon Ainsworth, Brooke Anttila, David Berg, Sarah Crippen, Emmanuel Donaby, Darren Ginther, Jim Gleb, Joseph Kroeger, Matt Lindgren, Theresa Malone, Gaye Adams Massey, Tom McCarthy, Ryan O'Connor, Khaliq Rogers, Erica Schumacher, Maggie Zimmerman, Dee Dee Peaslee, Paula Kinney, David Kline, Greg Rathert, Wendy Roberson, Ellen Roster

Absent: Jean Ecthernacht, Lee Krueger, Mary Rothchild, Craig Morris, Scott Wilson

Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Brendmoen commenced the meeting at 4:04 p.m. and said she would be serving as chair of the President's Advisory Council for this academic year. She had Ms. Lewis conduct roll call which included members introducing themselves and how long they have served on the council.

Role of President's Advisory Council

President Peaslee reviewed the role of the President's Advisory Council and noted some modifications were made to the bylaws. She said the council serves as an advisory group, where members serve as advisors in helping Saint Paul College think creatively in ways to serve the community and provide recommendations on institutional decisions, including budgeting and partnership possibilities. She noted the council will continue to have a Chair who serves for a year, however, there will no longer be a nominating committee for new members. President Peaslee noted that the college also has the Friends of Saint Paul College Foundation whose primary focus is fundraising, and asked invited council members to also participate in the Foundation's events. She asked if there was any feedback on the purpose of the council or the updated bylaws to let her know.

Saint Paul College Updates and MSU-Mankato and Saint Paul College Partnership

President Peaslee gave an update on the college for the current academic year. She said Saint Paul College continued to operate in a hybrid-mode, but Career and Technical Education courses and many Health Sciences courses were back in-person. She added about 50% of all courses were in an online format and said students were evenly split between taking online, hybrid, and in-person courses. President Peaslee noted enrollment was down 11% to Fall 2020, and acknowledged that students had been adversely affected by the pandemic. She said the college continues to work on finding ways to support students.

President Peaslee said there were some staff departures and reorganization over the summer, and introduced Mr. Rathert as the Interim Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs. She said his role will help to break down the silos between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs, and said he previously worked at the System Office, as well as various community colleges. President Peaslee also said the search for a Vice President of Advancement and Communications was in the final stages, and said this role would help to ensure messages were aligned and cohesive messaging was being communicated to both internal and external audiences.

Mr. Rathert said MSU-Mankato approached Saint Paul College to look for a metro-area on-campus presence, focusing on Engineering programs. He said students would complete their two-year degree at Saint Paul College before continuing on to earn their Bachelor's degree while remaining on Saint Paul College's campus. Mr. Rathert noted they were in the process of identifying space for the partnership, but that the program would likely be located on the lower level of the college. He said he would provide more information in the Spring as the partnership conversation continues.

Mr. Rathert also provided an update on a partnership with Concordia University. He said conversations between the institutions were just starting, however, they were looking at ways to support students throughout their post-secondary education experience and meet students where they are. Mr. Rathert said he will provide updates throughout the partnership discussion.

President Peaslee provided an update on Saint Paul College's budget. She noted the stimulus funds had helped to mitigate the budget gap. She said the campus community has been informed that if enrollment trends are down, there would be conversations on how to plan and make budget adjustments to ensure revenues and budget are in alignment. President Peaslee said Guiding Principles on budget adjustments had been established and would be shared with Faculty Shared Governance for feedback before being shared with the campus community.

Mr. O'Connor asked if Saint Paul College received funds from the American Rescue Plan. President Peaslee said stimulus funds were received from all three packages, but that each package had different amounts that were allocated for students and institutional purposes. She said a document was being created on the various allocations of the stimulus packages, and she would share that document with the council.

Environmental Scan Workshop

Ms. Kinney facilitated a WAVE exercise to review the college's environment and identify trends in higher education. She noted trends could include perceptions and ideas, and consisted of three phases. The first phase of the wave was what was on the horizon or emerging, the second phase was what is established or mainstream, and the final phase was what is disappearing or needs to be replaced. Ms. Kinney then placed the council members in breakout rooms focused on a particular phase of the wave.

Once the breakout rooms closed, each group provided a debrief on their discussion. The group focused on trends on the horizon discussed the politicization of higher education, the lack of skilled workers, the shift to online learning, the debt burden and how to cancel student debt, stackable credentials, and people opting out of higher education. Ms. Kinney asked if anything was missing, and President Peaslee noted the trend of decreasing high school graduates. Mr. Rathert added a shift in demographics and a new minority, and Ms. Roster noted there is more competition in the two-year college market with opportunities to obtain certificates, attend bootcamps, or seek private education. Ms. Kinney discussed the discouraging trend of decreasing amount of high school graduates. Mr. Rathert said there was the potential for a new model that allows for dual credit for prior learners, and the potential to earn a GED at the same time as obtaining post-secondary credits.

Ms. Kinney then had the group focused on discussing emerging trends present. The group identified an increased focus in mental health support, meeting the demand for Health Care and Trades, hybrid learning environments, alternatives to traditional education systems in the form of bootcamps and

employee-offered online programs, burnout, and trauma informed practices. Ms. Kinney asked if there was a trend that energized the group, and they noted that people were not returning to work in the same format as pre-pandemic and that education was similar in offering courses in multiple delivery formats. Ms. Kinney asked if there were areas that were low points, and the group acknowledged burnout in various industries was a concern, as well as meeting the needs of mental health support.

Ms. Kinney read what the group who discussed established trends identified, which included online learning, traditional teaching practices, credit for prior learning, and academic advising. She asked if anything was missing. Mr. Rathert added guided learning pathways and career-focused degree programs. Ms. Kinney asked if there was a trend that was exciting, and the group discussed the shift to being a student-ready college. Ms. Kinney then asked if there were any trends that were disappearing, and the group identified entrance exams and delivery methods being completely face-to-face. Ms. Kinney also asked if any trends were worrisome. The group noted the preparedness of students coming to college and the concern that students counseled to take development education courses may utilize a majority of their Pell grant before starting their degree program.

Ms. Kinney thanked everyone for their input and said she would aggregate the information and share with both the strategic planning consultant and the council members.

Ms. Brendmoen adjourned the meeting at 5:32 p.m.

**Minutes submitted by Jennie Lewis
November 19, 2021**