

President's Advisory Council
Thursday, September 29, 2022
4 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
Room 3320 and Zoom

Present: Amy Brendmoen, Brooke Anttila, Zahra Bahmani, David Berg, Andrew Collins, Emmanuel Donaby, Bruce Kessel, Joseph Kroeger, Matt Lindgren, Theresa Malone, Karin McCabe, Gay Adams Massey, Ryan O'Connor, Khaliq Rogers, Mary Rothchild, Erica Schumacher, Maggie Zimmerman, Dee Dee Peaslee, Austin Calhoun, Kay Francis Garland, Paula Kinney, Craig Morris, Greg Rathert, Wendy Roberson, Scott Wilson

Absent: Chauntyll Allen, Ryan Caulfield, Sarah Crippen, Jean Echternacht, Jim Gleb, Tom McCarthy, Uriah Ward, Ellen Roster

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Peaslee commenced the meeting at 4:04 p.m. Chair Brendmoen welcomed everyone and had the council members introduce themselves.

Enrollment Update

Ms. Francis Garland said fall enrollment had been positive, and discussed key factors that helped make that happen. With the restructure of Student Affairs, there was a focus on building relationships with students, and a collective effort to support students from prospect through graduation. She added that the restructure allowed them to identify barriers and work collectively across the institution to create processes and ways to support students and student success. New Student Orientation had now been rolled out to be mandatory for all new students, after being piloted by the Title III program. For those who did not attend orientation, a hold was placed on their account, and phone calls and outreach efforts were made to have them attend orientation. Ms. Francis Garland said over 400 students had attended orientation, which included just-in-time information, such as book ordering and the FAFSA process. Ms. Francis Garland added the growth in PSEO students and the enrollment of students into the Nursing program again for the fall also contributed to the success of fall enrollment.

Discussion

Mr. Wilson said Minnesota State's overall average enrollment was down about six to seven percent. He added much of the conversation focused on enrollment due to how funds were allocated to institutions. He noted with Saint Paul College's fall enrollment trending above Minnesota State's average, the college would likely receive a larger percent share in state appropriations two years from now.

Mr. O'Connor asked about the impact the pandemic had on enrollment and if other regions of the state were experiencing the same trends as Saint Paul College. Mr. Wilson said the year the pandemic began—spring of 2020—enrollment was down 5.6%, and in the full-year of the pandemic enrollment was down 13.3%. He added there were some institutions within Minnesota State that had been struggling for many years. Dr. Peaslee noted the number of traditional-age college students had been declining, and that the institution would need to think differently about who their students were.

Mr. Rathert noted there was also a focus on how to retain the college's students. He added many issues outside the classroom also impacted student success, including mental health, housing, and food insecurity, and said Saint Paul College would be starting a food pantry later in the fall semester.

Ms. Schumacher asked about the impact of the federal loan cancellations. Ms. Francis Garland said they were working on ways to identify students who would be impacted so they could reach out to get them re-enrolled. She added there would be a FAFSA workshop for students in October, and they were considering holding a workshop for current students on how to apply for the federal loan forgiveness program.

Strategic Plan Update

Dr. Kinney introduced Saint Paul College's strategic plan. The college officially launched the strategic plan two weeks ago, and the plan was for a period of three years with a focus on community and relationships. The first strategic direction was for the college to develop as an anti-racist, trauma-informed institution. Dr. Kinney noted Strategic Direction One provided the foundation for the rest of the strategic directions, and that supporting the success of the college's students and the operations and practices of the institution, would be through the lens of being anti-racist and trauma-informed. The second strategic direction addressed academic excellence, including retention, persistence, and completion, and provided a foundation to develop as a student-ready college. The third strategic direction was focused on the college's internal organizational climate, including creating a positive and engaging work environment, and a culture committed to organizational learning and institutional improvement. The fourth strategic direction was to enhance and sustain relationships with community partners. This included sustaining and expanding relationships with the K-12 sector, as well as enhancing and growing strategic partnerships with businesses, organizations, and communities. Progress on the strategic plan would be tracked by Key Performance Indicators, which were measurable values that could be either quantitative or qualitative, and would track progress on the strategic directions rather than institutional health.

Discussion

Mr. Lindgren asked who would be tracking the progress made on the strategic plan. Dr. Kinney said everybody at the institution would play a role in tracking the progress made. She added the annual planning process for this year would include each department creating an action plan on steps they would take to contribute to the strategic plan. In the spring, departments would update progress made on the goals they identified, with the information then being utilized in the development of the annual report.

Alumni Story

Mr. Rogers shared his experience of being a student at Saint Paul College, as well as what he was doing after he graduated. After he graduated from Gordon Parks High School, he chose to attend Saint Paul College in part because of the dual-enrollment courses he took while a student in high school. Saint Paul College was a new experience for him, where he had to learn to be his own advocate, as well as create a new core group of friends. While at the college, Mr. Rogers had a composition instructor who had an assignment to discuss a topic that was a high priority in their community. From this assignment, a relationship was developed with the instructor where he could share his dreams and aspirations, one of which was to be a public-speaker and focus on ways to re-imagine the education system. In addition to

the faculty member, he also had a staff member from the college who listened and encouraged him to follow his career path. The assignment evolved into him creating a consulting business, with some of his current projects including reducing youth and family homelessness, and amplifying the youth voice. Mr. Rogers invited members who wanted more information on his business, or to connect with him, to his website— <https://www.goodriddancellc.org/welcome>.

Miscellaneous Item

Dr. Peaslee asked if there were any recommendations for agenda topics. Ms. Schumacher asked if there was a plan to increase the retention of minority male students. Ms. Roberson said there was a preliminary plan, and that it could be added as a future agenda item.

Meeting adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

**Minutes submitted by Jennie Lewis
October 20, 2022**