

President's Advisory Council
Thursday, December 4, 2025
4 p.m.-6 p.m.
Room 1514

Minutes

Present: Brenda Burnside, Andrew Collins, Dana Krueger, Tamara Mattison, Karin McCabe, Erica Valliant, Dee Dee Peaslee, Greg Rathert, Scott Wilson, Wendy Roberson, Paula Kinney, Austin Calhoun, Sarah Carrico, Sonya Zuker

Absent: Ling Becker, Anika Bowie, Ryan Caulfield, Keith Colvard, Yusef Carrillo, Sarah Crippen, JP Holwerda, Matt Lindgren, Khaliq Rogers, Raji Geneti, Kay Francis Garland, Blessing Norvell, Maggie Zimmerman

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Dr. Peaslee commenced the meeting at 4:13 p.m. She shared that Saint Paul College was named one of the top 200 community colleges in the nation and is eligible for the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. Dr. Peaslee said the college is in the process of submitting the narrative, and will be notified in the spring regarding whether Saint Paul College has been selected for the next phase of the Aspen process.

Hot Topic Conversation— The Value of Higher Education

Dr. Zuker said in the Vox article provided to members, the article stated that the job market for college graduates was strong, however, a recent article from NBC shared that recent graduates were not having success with job searches, even in high demand degrees and fields. She asked council members if they were seeing a shift and change in perception in the value of higher education and college.

Dr. Mattison noted a growing focus on monetary return on investment, with students looking at quicker pathways to employment. Ms. Burnside said in regards to the perception of a two-year institution, in addition to quicker pathways to employment, two-year institutions may be a more affordable and accessible option. Ms. McCabe noted the changing perspectives of parents who despite holding four-year degrees, are questioning the cost and long-term debt burden for their own children. Council members also discussed broad societal and workforce factors, including requiring college degrees as a form of gatekeeping, and the stigma of attending a two-year institution rather than a four-year institution.

Ms. Carrico asked how to balance a message that supports both technical pathways as well as transfer pathways. Ms. Krueger noted it in part goes back to the financial aspect of education and what programs can be completed in the shortest amount of time that can lead to a higher paying job. Mr. Collins added the importance of helping students understand persistence and patience, and what the educational journey may look like.

Moon Shot for Social and Economic Mobility

Mr. Rathert provided an overview of the Moon Shot for Social and Economic Mobility initiative. He said the initiative is an equity-focused change management philosophy aimed at identifying and addressing gaps in

student outcomes and experiences. The Moon Shot initiative is in partnership with EAB, who studied and reviewed data from colleges and universities across the nation, and developed 15 best practice areas. Mr. Rathert said Saint Paul College has created best practice teams who will focus on a specific best practice area and identify what actions the college should implement to meet the needs of students. He added Saint Paul College started the initiative by focusing on four best practice areas, but will eventually cover all of the areas over the next few years.

Ms. Wonosikou provided an update on the current best practice teams. She said for Guided Learning Pathways, it will be a multi-year effort focused on early momentum and ensuring students stay on an academic path or identify an alternative path if the original one was not a best fit. This includes creating seamless paths for students, as well as expanding micro-credentials. The Proactive Advising best practice team focuses on building intentional milestones and engaging with students during their whole academic lifecycle. This includes utilizing early alerts and the use of analytics to help manage caseloads. The Hold Reform best practice team focuses on reviewing the types of holds the college has and identifying ways to remove barriers for students regarding holds. This includes the team reviewing all types of holds the college has, the number of students impacted by four or more holds, and how the college communicates with students regarding the holds. Mr. Rathert added that this best practice team has discussed what holds need to be eliminated or redesigned that unnecessarily block students from registering or getting access to a transcript. Ms. Wonosikou said the Access to a Second Chance best practice team is focused on how to re-engage with students who have stopped-out. This includes reviewing which students are leaving, what the reason is, and what their GPA was in their last term, as well as exploring outreach strategies to re-engage with stopped-out students and assessing academic suspension policies to ensure students feel a sense of belonging and support in helping them complete their educational journey.

Ms. Burnside asked if Saint Paul College collects data on what a student spends to earn a credential and what they earn post-graduation. Ms. Wonosikou said new tools are under consideration, including a platform called Stepping Blocks, that can help capture post-graduation employment data and earnings. Mr. Wilson noted the challenge of federal earning data, as earnings data can be under-reported among self-employed graduates.

Ms. McCabe and Ms. Burnside expressed appreciation for the work around the Moon Shot initiative. Dr. Kinney noted that elements of the Moon Shot initiative will also be embedded as part of Saint Paul College's new strategic plan.

Meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jennie Lewis.