



## Academic Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Thursday, June 12, 2025  
**Time:** 2:00PM  
**Location:** Boyd Conference Room, Conley Hall

**Members Present:** Sarita Rhonemous, Bill Cole, Rebecca Peterson

**Absent:** Jack Sheffler, Chair; Mike Hastings, Ed Toman

**Guests:** Dr. Darrin Martin, President; Brent Benjamin, EVP & General Counsel; Joshua Grubb, Chief of Staff; Dr. Sarita Rhonemus, Interim Provost; Dr. Darrel Malamisura, President of Faculty Senate.

### 1. Call to Order:

In the absence of Mr. Jack Sheffler, Mr. Darrell Malamisura called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM in the Boyd Conference Room.

### 2. Updates by Provost – Dr. Sarita Rhonemus

#### a. HLC Update

- The panel submitted its report with minor typos corrected.
- No institutional response required as findings were agreed upon.
- Next steps: Review by Institutional Actions Council on June 30-July 1, 2025.
- A full comprehensive site visit is scheduled for April 2026, including a monitoring report.

#### b. Registration Fall 2025

- Continuing student registration is down by 16.
- Faculty are actively contacting students with detailed tracking.
- Transfer registration delayed due to transcript backlog (Registrar working nights and weekends).
- MBA: 11 enrolled (3 continuing, 8 new); 50 applications have been received.
- Orientation: 138 registered, only 24 have completed registration.
- FTE currently down 11%, expected to rise before Fall 2025.

#### c. College Updates

- Arts, Education & Social Sciences: Final approval expected for online Teacher Education program. Dr. Amanda Matushik was named the new Dean.
- Health Sciences: Junior Nurse Academy successful; first former participant is now graduate nurse. Sonography AAS program is accepting applications for Summer 2026.
- College of Business: Discussed simulations integration. FBLA students attended national competition.

- STEM: Departments migrating to Dickason Hall. Dr. Bennett is now an ABET peer reviewer.

d. Students Satisfaction Survey Results

Key Concerns:

- Faculty responsiveness inconsistent.
- Questioning relevance of general education courses (e.g., Biology, Algebra).
- Outdated facilities and slow administrative support.
- Poor dining experiences noted, but improving at MEC.
- Overwhelming and ineffective email communication.
- Students want more in-person (“NC”) learning and community engagement.

Proposed Solutions Include:

- Hiring/training more staff.
- Improving communication and advising.
- Updating facilities.
- Increasing flexible/online course options.
- Holding regular student forums.

e. Dates & Times for BOG Interaction

- Two proposed forums aligned with Board meeting days to facilitate visits.
- Discussion on combining faculty and staff sessions pending HLC clarification.
- Emphasis on improving faculty/staff interaction with the Board and promoting engagement.

**3. Additional Discussion**

- Difficulty recruiting faculty due to low, flat pay scales across disciplines.
- Urged consideration of differential pay for specialty (e.g., CPA vs. English PhD).

**4. Adjournment**

The meeting concluded informally with acknowledgement of ongoing challenges and preparations for the Fall semester.