



Academic Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, April 16, 2026
Time: 2:00PM
Location: Boyd Conference Room, Conley Hall

Members Present: Ms. Cathy Deeb, Mr. Mike Hastings, Dr. Darrin Martin, Mr. Randy Price, Dr. Sarita Rhonemus, Mr. Ed Toman (Virtual)

Virtual: Mr. Josh Grubb, Dr. Amanda Matoushek

1. Call to Order:

Mr. Ed Toman called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. HLC Post-Visit Update

- The HLC midpoint review visit was reported as **very successful**.
- Reviewers praised:
 - Strong understanding of institutional mission
 - Clear roles and responsibilities of the board
 - Commitment to student success
 - Faculty and staff dedication
- No major concerns were identified; only minor recommendations are expected.
- **Next Steps:**
 - Draft report submitted to HLC leadership
 - Institutional review for factual accuracy
 - Final report expected **early July 2026**
- Committee emphasized the importance of continuing process improvements and maintaining momentum.

3. Pre-Registration for Fall 2026

- Pre-registration started last week and is underway.
- Current enrollment:
 - **301 students registered** (up from 297 last year)
 - **FTE increased** from ~235 to ~255
- Growth attributed to:
 - Improved outreach efforts
 - Athletics contributions
 - Increased retention of continuing students
- Advising improvements:
 - Automated transition from freshman advising to major advisors at 30 credit hours
 - System expected to be fully operational by summer

4. Master's in Engineering Technology

- Proposal submitted and approved by HLC.
- Currently under review by the state (Charleston).
- Final approval expected at the **June commission meeting**.
- Program details:
 - 30-credit, non-thesis program
 - Strong interest with a developing waitlist
 - Initial enrollment goal: ~15 students

5. Curriculum Changes

Program Updates

- RN to BSN program moving to **8-week online format** (effective Fall 2026).
- New course added:
 - *Math for Healthcare Professionals*

Engineering & STEM Updates

- Multiple courses **redesigned (not just renamed)** to align with industry needs.
- Examples include:
 - Python for Engineers
 - Engineering Management courses
 - Operations & Supply Chain Management
 - Digital Systems and Automation
- Additional updates made to course descriptions in:
 - Integrated Circuits
 - Semiconductor Devices
 - Power Systems

Implementation Notes

- Changes take effect **Fall 2026**.
- Students in older catalogs will use **course substitutions** to avoid retaking courses.
- Faculty workload for redesign emphasized as significant.

6. Employee Satisfaction Survey Results

Key Findings

- **Overall satisfaction high:**
 - Only ~3% dissatisfied
 - 94% feel their work contributes to institutional success

- Strong workplace culture:
 - High respect among colleagues
 - Strong sense of mission and purpose
- Supervisory relationships rated highly

Areas of Concern

- **Compensation dissatisfaction** (consistent with national trends)
- **Employee voice & communication gaps:**
 - ~25% feel leadership does not listen adequately
- Advancement opportunities limited due to structural constraints

Benchmark Comparison

- Institution **exceeds national averages** in:
 - Overall satisfaction
 - Supervisor relationships
- Matches national challenges in compensation
- Slightly below average in employee voice/recognition

Next Steps

- Further analysis by employee group (faculty, staff, administration)
- Continued focus on improving communication and employee engagement

Additional Discussion

- Growth in specialized programs (e.g., Mine Technology) noted
- Ongoing challenges:
 - Recruitment and retention of program leadership
 - Competitive salaries in industry
- Graduation scheduled for **May 16, 2026**

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:48 PM.

