



Academic Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, December 11, 2025

Time: 2:00PM

Location: Boyd Conference Room, Conley Hall

Members Present: Mr. Bill Cole, Dr. Darrin Martin, Dr. Sarita Rhonemus, Mr. Jack Sheffler

Guests: Ms. Cathy Deeb, Mr. Josh Grubb

1. Call to Order:

2. HLC Accreditation Site Visit

Presented by Dr. Sarita Rhonemus

- HLC site visit scheduled for April 13–14, 2026 (team of five reviewers).
- Reviewers have backgrounds in management, finance, educational administration, IT, student success, and STEM.
- Team will remain through April 15; noted added costs for lodging and travel.
- Itinerary will be shared with all stakeholders once confirmed.

3. Power BI Dashboards and Data-Driven Decision Making

- Development of campus-wide Power BI dashboards underway.
- Will enable real-time data visualization for decision-making.
- Rollout overseen by Cabinet, with assignments linked to the strategic plan.

4. Strategic Plan Rollout and Framework

- January rollout anticipated after Cabinet review.
- Cabinet members assigned responsibility for specific plan areas.
- Communication plan in development (likely via campus-wide email).
- Discussion on concise, actionable reporting versus lengthy documentation.
- Implementation matrix designed to be adaptable and will track KPIs and progress.

5. Registration Numbers – Spring 2026



- Spring headcount up by 55 students (1,023 vs 968 year-over-year).
- Full-time enrollment increased by 5.11%.
- Additional registrations expected before classes begin.

6. Commencement and Graduation

- Commencement is set for May 16, 2026 at the Brushfork Armory.
- 254 graduation applications received (including 54 MBA).
- Application deadline extended through January.

7. Library Updates and Renovation Plans

- Increased circulation and off-site database usage.
- Renovation of connecting room to Conley Hall under consideration pending grant funding.

8. International Initiatives and Student Services

- Education USA network activity resumed post-federal shutdown.
- Four international advisory committee members confirmed.
- Hosting first U.S. cohort for global exchange programs.
- 15 international students admitted for spring; two in-state transfers pending.
- SEFAS recertification processing has resumed.

9. Honors College and Student Achievements

- Honors College earned first place nationally at Disney collegiate technology/cybersecurity competition.
- Students recognized at STEM conference; visit to state capitol.

10. Academic College Updates

College of Arts, Education, and Social Sciences:

- New law school articulation agreements (Appalachian School of Law, University of Akron).
- Communication honors enrollment increased from 4 to 26 students.

College of Business:



- Successful high school visits and participation in Get a Life financial literacy simulation.
- Planning business competition with Bluefield University.

College of Health Sciences:

- TEAS Test Central in Moodle improved nursing test scores by 11 points.
- Radiologic Technology accreditation reaffirmed (perfect score).
- Nursing accreditation review set for Fall 2026.

College of STEM:

- Renewed partnership efforts with Oak Ridge National Laboratory for research opportunities.
- Preparing for HLC site visit for new Master's in Engineering Technology (early Spring).
- Program will offer both in-seat and online delivery.

11. Faculty and Staff Open Forum

- Next open forum scheduled for December 18 at 2:00 PM before the Board of Governors meeting (virtual format).
- Additional forum to be held at end of the Spring Semester.

12. Employee Satisfaction Survey Results (122 Participated)

- Three-year trends show increases in pride, optimism, and satisfaction.
- Marked decrease in dissatisfaction rates.
- Further data analysis to segment results by faculty, staff, administration.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 PM.