

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, EFFECTIVENESS, AND ACCREDITATION MEETING ON February 17, 2026, at 1:00 P.M., DON 132 Minutes

Helena College Mission: Helena College Supports our diverse community by providing the paths and tools necessary to assist learners in achieving their educational and career goals.

IDEA Council Mission: The Institutional Development, Effectiveness, and Accreditation Council is a representative body whose mission is to advance the strategic direction of Helena College through assessment and planning. The committee also has oversight for activities related to maintaining institutional compliance with regional accreditation policies and standards.

Attendees

- **Jessie Pate (Chair)**, Director of Institutional Research & Effectiveness
- **Marika Adamek**, Assistant Registrar
- **Katelynn Eberhardt**, Director of Student Wellbeing and Engagement
- **Nathan Munn**, Social Sciences Instructor
- **Abby Rausch**, Director of Marketing, Communications, and Alumni Relations
- **Bryon Steinwand**, IT & Programming Instructor, Assessment Database Developer
- **Cody Torres**, Welding Instructor
- **Paige Payne (Recorder)**, Executive Assistant

Priorities for AY2526

1. Carry out the institutional assessment plan.
2. Coordinate the collection of data in support of strategic goal IM-1 (community engagement).
3. Recommend leading indicators and real-time metrics aligned with each KPI under the new metrics tree model.
4. Prepare two ad hoc reports and coordinate one virtual visit in response to NWCCU recommendations.

Pre-Reads/Supplemental Materials

- IDEA Council Minutes 20260203
- Ad Hoc Report Recommendations 1 2 3

Agenda

Approve minutes: IDEA Council Minutes 20260203

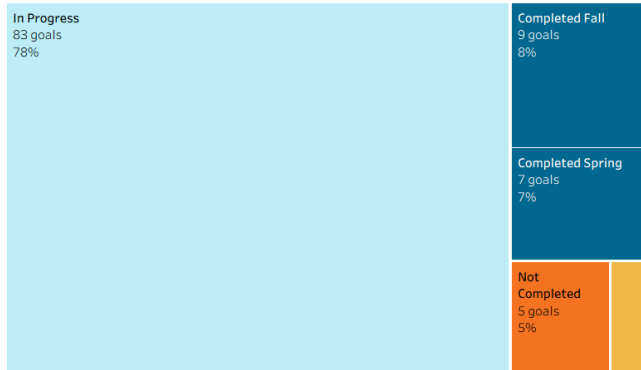
- Katelynn moved to approve the minutes. Cody seconded the motion. Approved.

Annual Plans

- Mid-Year Check-In - [Dashboard](#)
- IDEA is not going to do conduct the mid-year follow-up. It was unproductive.
- Mid-Year Data:
 - 16 completed.
 - 83 goals in progress

- 2 goals are deferred for now, 3 are not completed.
- Overall, IDEA thought that the plans were progressing well.

2025-26



AI Review

- Bryon asked different AI platforms to evaluate the annual plan goals.
 - Co-Pilot was the best, but it would skip some of the input. He will try again using smaller groups of data.
- UM has an AI sandbox which is safe to use.
- IDEA would like to see the trends, obstacles, or themes found in the annual plan goals.

Ad Hoc Report Recommendations 1 & 3

- Fiscal responsibility is part of the report and recommendations.
 - Helena College is struggling to have a process to include the institution as a whole. The current process was evaluated to be at the departmental level in the previous review.
 - The evaluators want to see the budget guiding the operational planning and initiatives prompted by assessment findings. How does the budget process ensure that the funding enhances student learning and achievement?
 - When a budget author requests funds for a program or line item, what evidence or justification is presented to make the decision?
- It is difficult to describe the process in the report. Helena College is moving towards the recommendations. There are a lot of moving pieces and not one process.
- Are IDEA members ready to speak to the evaluators?

Revised Standards by NWCCU

- The draft of the revised standards is available for review.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 3