

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, EFFECTIVENESS, AND ACCREDITATION

MEETING ON MARCH 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

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 |
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Priorities for AY2526

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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 20260217
- 2026-01-27 Accept Ad Hoc Recommendation 5 Fall 2025 – Fulfilled
- Staff Evaluation - Helena College University of Montana Ad Hoc Report Fall 2025
- Ad Hoc Report Recommendations 1 2 3

Agenda

Approve minutes: IDEA Council Minutes 20260217

- Bryon Steinwand moved to approve the minutes. Nathan Munn seconded the motion. Approved
 - Note: March 3, 2026 meeting was canceled.

NWCCU Recommendation 5 – Fulfilled!

- See files: Letter from NWCCU and Staff Evaluation
 - Effectively addressed both concerns.

Ad Hoc Report Recommendations 1 2 3

- Jessie Pate submitted the report on March 3.
- The peer virtual visit is on Friday, April 17, 2026.
 - The evaluation is returned within a week after the visit and the final evaluation will arrive in July, 2026.

Dashboard Review Discussion: Overall, enrollment and retention are healthy.

- Retention Dashboards
 - Fall to Fall data indicates that HC loses some students over the summer. Reasons could include transfer or moving on.
 - Fall to Spring data shows retention up 4% from last year.
 - 71% of part-time students are retained from fall to spring – matches highest rate from 2022.
 - No large gaps.

Spring Census Dashboards

- Spring Census Enrollment: 1261 overall. Numbers are up 5.5% compared to last spring.
 - Dual Enrollment (DE) =544, General Enrollment=717
 - 589 degree seeking students this spring
 - New student numbers are the best in 5 years.
- Fall to Spring Retention: 626 overall.
 - DE=135, General= 491, up over the 5-year average.
- The average number of credits is 14.9.
 - Financial Aid specifies that full-time is 12 credits. However, for a student to complete on time, a student needs to be enrolled in 15 credits per semester
 - Nursing has semesters that are 11 credits. How does this work?
- The average age of the student base is going down.
- There is an increase in non-traditional students in nursing, auto, welding, and computer programming.
- There is a higher percentage of female students compared to male students.
- First Generation student numbers are increasing.
- Student participation in accessibility services is increasing.
- The number of students registering through course share/Quottly platform has increased because more courses are available through the platform.

Annual Plans

- AI Review was not discussed.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 31