

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, EFFECTIVENESS, AND ACCREDITATION

MEETING ON MAY 14, 2026, AT 10:00 A.M., DON FISHBOWL

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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| • Jessie Pate (Chair) , Director of Institutional Research & Effectiveness | • Abby Rausch , Director of Marketing, Communications, and Alumni Relations |
| • Marika Adamek , Assistant Registrar | • Bryon Steinwand , IT & Programming Instructor, Assessment Database Developer |
| • Katelynn Eberhardt , Director of Student Wellbeing and Engagement | • Cody Torres , Welding Instructor |
| • Nathan Munn, Social Sciences 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 20260428
- AY 2026-27 Institutional Priorities
- [Mid-Cycle Guidelines](#)

Agenda

Approve minutes: IDEA Council Minutes 20260428

- Marika Adamek moved to approve the minutes. Katelynn Eberhardt seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

Institutional Priorities Developed by Cabinet

The problem: The ship is traveling. Who is steering? Is it going in the right direction and at the correct speed?

- Priorities:
 1. Identify and close gaps. IDEAs involvement.
 2. Develop a more effective strategic plan. IDEAs involvement.
 3. Strengthen and align dual enrollment pathways.
 - i. Quality control on content and oversight is in question.
 - ii. The instructor is required to be in contact with the HS instructor and this is not always happening.
 4. Translate data into talking points.
 5. Expand career development and workforce ties.
 - i. New position in the library will have career/workforce development component.
- General Discussion/Feedback
 - It takes so long for secondary education to adjust to the industry needs as the world/business moves faster.
 - If and when DE enrollment moves to 80% of our student population, what are the impacts, how is HC going to handle the load, and how does it alter how HC is perceived?
 - If the five institutional priorities are not incorporated into the annual plans or other directive, they will be forgotten or ignored.
 - Missing from our priorities: Student and employee wellness and mental health wellbeing is OCHE's priority – somewhat relates to #1
 - IDEA's Potential Roles: Leading indicators and data review - disaggregated

Annual Plans for AY 2026-27

Current

- 1-3 goals aligned to defining characteristics
- Intended function: Support of strategic plan/mission fulfillment
 - Standard 1.B.1: Continuous assessment of institutional effectiveness – resources – student achievement
 - Standard 1.B.2: Goals, obj., and indicators to define mission fulfillment - peers
 - Standard 1.B.3: Inclusive planning processes, resource allocation, improvement of effectiveness
 - Standard 1.C.7: Use assessment results to inform academic and learning-support planning to improve student learning
- Intended but hasn't happened: Support of program review recommendations
- Indirect: Support planning at department level

Potential

- Yearly check-in on program review goals
- Annual assessment project for departments
- Student learning outcomes for faculty
- Effectiveness for others
- Institutional learning outcomes for everyone
- Alignments
- Strategic goals
- Key performance indicators (recommended by NWCCU)
- Institutional priorities

Other things to consider

Timing:

- Current schedule is not conducive to finishing a goal in the middle of summer. August to August may be a better start and finish.
- Resource allocation was never the intention for annual plans.
- Consider if annual plans should no longer be part of mission fulfillment.

Mid-Cycle Planning

- The mid-cycle visit is April 8 - 9, 2027.
- Report deadline is February 19, 2027. Covers broad topics rather than specific standards:
 - Mission fulfillment.
 - Student achievement measures
 - Programmatic assessment (2 programs)
 - Future
- Calendar > institutional planning day> five priorities identified
 - Work into mission fulfillment
- New strategic plan in 2027 – using the Gardner Institute process to strategically prioritize student success to create and form the next strategic plan. The process uses an assessment tool survey, then schedules a sense-making workshop after the survey, and all other institutional research data and documents are analyzed to find patterns and strengths and capacity.
- Considering using a playbook idea like UMs playbook instead of a strategic plan.

Next Meeting: 2nd Thursday at 10 a.m. monthly during the summer on June 11, July 9, and August 13 in the Fishbowl.