

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, EFFECTIVENESS, AND ACCREDITATION

MEETING ON AUGUST 4, 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 AY2627

TBD

Pre-Reads/Supplemental Materials

- IDEA Council Minutes 20260715
- IDEA Council Disaggregated Data Review Workshop Report
- AY2627 Annual Plan Observations (pending)

Agenda

Approve minutes: IDEA Council Minutes 20260715

- Minutes approved.

Disaggregated Data Review Workshop Recap

- Data was reviewed.
- Next step is to present the data to the Cabinet.

NWCCU Update

- Accreditation cycle is extended to 8 years. Now the mid-cycle is in the 4th year and HC had the choice to keep the 3rd year date or delay to the 4th year.
 - HC decided to take the 4th year option which gives HC more time to prepare.
- The PRFR (Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review) covering Standard 2 is still due in the 6th year.
- Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness report and visit is now in year 8.
- NWCCU Standards have been updated and revised after multiple drafts.

- Highlights:
 - Online students, community education, and dual enrollment standard requirements added and reinforced.
 - Institutions are required to evaluate the return on educational investment made by students.
 - IT and Facilities standard was divided into their own standard and the language was strengthened and requirements added.

Annual Plans

- Review AY2526 plans
 - All the plans were turned in on time.
 - The distribution of goals has not changed.
 - The balance of alignment to the strategic plan has stayed the same.
 - Equity goals are lagging as usual.
- Finalize AY2627 plan format
 - Determine what should be emphasized in 27/28.
 - Institutional priorities are added to the upcoming plan.
 - After supervisors approve the goal, the author cannot add goals.

Next Meeting: August 18?

- Today is Abby and Marika's last meeting. A new Cabinet member and a staff senate member will be added.
 - Dig into the data for the gaps.
 - Analyze roll-over goals.