HELENA COLLEGE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA | IDEA Council

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, EFFECTIVENESS, AND ACCREDITATION

MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 30, 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

Name	Role on Council	Title	Term Status
Jessie Pate	Chair	Director of Institutional Research & Effectiveness	Standing
Bryon Steinwand	Assessment Database Developer	IT & Programming Instructor	Standing
Paige Payne	Recorder	Executive Assistant	Standing
Cody Torres	Trades faculty	Welding Instructor	Year 4 of 3
Katelynn Eberhardt	Staff/director at large	Director of Student Wellbeing & Engagement	Year 3 of 3
Nathan Munn	General Education faculty	Social Sciences Instructor	Year 2 of 3
Robyn Kiesling	Cabinet member	Executive Director of General Education, Transfer, and Academic Support	Year 1 of 3
Tyler Young	Staff	Online Teaching & Learning Support Specialist	Year 1 of 3

Priorities for AY2627

1) Coordinate the collection of data in support of strategic goal IM-1 (community engagement)
2) Develop a metrics tree for Helena College's six key performance indicators (KPIs) by recommending leading indicators and real-time metrics to support each KPI.
3) Identify and explore gaps in student achievement
4) Develop a new strategic plan

Pre-Reads/Supplemental Materials

- IDEA Council Minutes 20260916
- Annual Plans Dashboard
- AY2627 IAP Calendar - Cabinet & IDEA
- Exploring Leading & Lagging Indicators

Agenda

Approve minutes: IDEA Council Minutes 20260916

- Nathan is not in attendance.
- Cody Torres moved to approve the minutes. Bryon Steinwand seconded the motion. Approved. Katelynn Eberhardt abstained.

Annual Plans

- Review dashboard
  - There were fewer goals than previous years.
  - Not a lot of change in goal distribution.
    - Impact is steady.
    - More effectiveness goals than in the past few years.
  - Alignment to the strategic plan is on track.
  - Some goals are already completed.
- Alignment with Institutional Priorities (IP)
  - 72% aligned with the Institutional Priorities.
  - Some goals align with more than one priority.
    - Equity gaps – 27 goals
    - Develop a more effective strategic plan - 12 goals
    - Dual Enrollment – 2 goals
    - Translating data to talking points - 11 goals
    - Expand Career Development and Workforce Ties – 15 goals
  - Jessie will check data after the discussion because some alignments don't seem correct.
- IDEA review discussion
  - Look at the AI review first.
  - If it flags items, discuss the next steps.
  - If the plans are transitioning to a different path; focus on the future.
  - How does IDEA analyze/summarize the goals that tie to the institutional priorities.
    - Tyler & Cody Assignment: IP 1: 1-13, Katelyn 14-27
    - Robyn IP 2
    - Bryon IP 3 & 4
    - Nathan IP 5
  - Summary due October 21 and will be discussed at the meeting.

Review Plan for the Year – Refer to AY2627 IAP Calendar - Cabinet & IDEA

- Created an institutional assessment calendar for Cabinet and IDEA
- Gap analysis
  - Look at metrics identified by Cabinet in more depth
- Decide when to end the current SP and start the next one.
  - First steps include building a framework from the information gleaned from the Gardner Institute survey and recommendations.
  - The institutional priorities are an important part of the framework.

    - Broaden and shorten the goals.
- Look at other strategic plans written in the last 1 to 3 years for trends.

Disaggregated Data Review Workshop

- Gap Metrics Identified by Cabinet
    - 150% graduation rate for part-time students – consider looking at credit accumulation
    - Retention and graduation rates for female students – consider looking by program
    - Transfer rates for veterans and non-traditional age students – consider looking by program, employment
- Identify 2-4 leading indicators to help tell the story of part-time, female, veteran, and non-traditional age students.
    - Ideas: use mid-term data, how many students are using student services, tutor appointments, CARE data, and other data.

Next Meeting: October 21