HELENA COLLEGE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA | IDEA Council

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, EFFECTIVENESS, AND ACCREDITATION

MEETING ON OCTOBER 21, 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 20260930
- Annual Plans Dashboard
- 2027 Strategic Planning
- Exploring Leading & Lagging Indicators

Agenda

Approve minutes: IDEA Council Minutes 20260930 All members were present.

- Katelynn Eberhardt moved to approve the minutes. Robyn Kiesling seconded the motion. Nathan Munn abstained. The minutes were approved.

Annual Plans

- AI Review
  - Discussed the AI review of the annual plans.
  - Goals were evaluated and ranked by AI.
  - Measurability was the biggest content gap overall.
- Institutional Priority Review
  - Discussed the evaluations by the IDEA members.
  - The priorities are too vague and need to be clearer.
    - Some of the goals that were tied to a priority did not align.
    - Reasons:
      - There is a broad interpretation of a “gap”.
      - Overall, goals were written first, then made to fit into a priority without adding more thought.

Strategic Planning

- Gardner Sensemaking meeting is scheduled for December 16 and 17. IDEA will participate.
- Proposal from Cabinet (see 2027 Strategic Planning document) Did not discuss.

Disaggregated Data Review Phase 2 Next meeting.

- 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

Next Meeting: November 18