

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

March 5, 2026

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: V. Beache, L. Bird, K. D'Ambrisi, M. Grahl, K. Hammond, M. Hendrickson, L. Montgomery, D. Poole, C. Ranalli, D. Schoenenberger, K. Smith, V. Stein, J. Telemeco

Excused: N. Arnone

Minutes taken by L. Bird

Reflection

“It is never too late to be what you might have been.” ~ George Elliot

Approval of Minutes

Director Montgomery motioned to approve the February 5 minutes, Director Hammon seconded the motion. Dr. Hendrickson abstained. The minutes were approved as written.

Dean of Academic Innovation and Instructional Technology Update

- The mandatory June PD schedule was sent out via email on Monday, February 23rd, by VP Schoenenberger
- The requirement for activating course sections in D2L is returning to calendar days versus business days
 - This adjustment was made to avoid conflict with in-house professional development for WCPS adjuncts
- Recordings of both syllabus management tools are now available within the Main Instructor Resources space on D2L
 - Dean Beache worked with PIE on a survey that went out to all faculty and division directors; please let Dean Beache know if the survey request cannot be located, and encourage faculty to participate
 - Teaching & Learning Committee worked on a draft template for the new syllabus management tool, which was distributed with today's agenda; committee members or directors may share the document for feedback at their March division meetings
- The Teaching & Learning Committee also received a research request to explore a process change for the management of D2L grades
 - Certain advisors now have access to grades for their cohort groups, with no ability to review or edit course content; the main concern is that they cannot access any grades hosted on external publisher sites
 - Dean Beache requested that committee members or directors discuss the scope of this issue at upcoming division meetings
 - In addition to addressing student support concerns, maintaining grades in D2L will be essential for our new SLOA process
 - The following blurb from Dr. Jordan-D'Ambrisi, Dean of Instruction, should also be considered in the division-level discussions:

As part of strengthening assessment framework, Watermark Planning & Self-Study is designed to pull outcome-level data directly from Brightspace D2L. For this integration to function as intended, graded activities that are designated for course-level assessment must include clearly aligned learning outcomes captured through rubric criteria or item-level mapping within D2L. While not every graded activity requires a rubric, any assignment, discussion, project, or exam intended to generate outcome-level reporting

must be structured to preserve that alignment. Establishing consistent expectations for grade entry and outcome alignment ensures accurate, reliable, and sustainable assessment reporting.

Dean of Instruction Update

- Academic Scheduling for Student Success
 - S. Thomas working on room assignments for Fall 2026
- Watermark Planning & Self Study
 - Hands on training tomorrow (not recorded)
 - Creating videos for each step; frequently asked questions reference
 - If necessary, one on one training or workshops
 - All should be using Watermark this fall
- Watermark Curriculum
 - Dr. D'Ambrisi queried the directors; felt it was very easy
 - Everyone using new process this fall when submitting to Curriculum Committee
- MSDE Career and Technical Education: Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment & Local Perkins Application
 - Learned of new template for priorities and smarty goals; drafted some priorities
 - Application due May 15
 - Distribution of funds in July even if modifications on application
 - Addressing where we want to see growth
- Articulation Agreements
 - Reviewing agreements in place for potential revisions
 - Preparing for the unveiling of new website
 - Discussions with 4-year institutions to develop new agreements
 - VP Schoenenberger recommended DOI meet with directors monthly to review potential agreements
- PC compensation – division directors to return completed spreadsheet by March 13

Dean of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness Update

- Nothing new to report

Faculty Assembly Chair Update

- Faculty emeriti/ae name (Paula Kessler) moved forward
- Working on filling upcoming fall Shared Governance open slots – gathering names

Director of Early College Programs Update

- Program directors meeting will be April 17, 11 am-1 pm
 - Spring meeting on campus (directors, program coordinators decision makers in their program)
 - Review classes, textbooks, concerns for next year
- Workshop day will be Tuesday, August 18 – details to follow
- On campus, full-time students' priority application due date was March 1 (120 applied, 86 last year); next due date is May 1
- Spring grades deadline changed due to snow days

VPAASS Update

- Honors and Graduation combined
- Only one faculty speaker – other faculty can go to luncheon
 - Health Sciences Pinning – Thursday PM ARCC

- o Nursing Pinning – Saturday
- Adjunct of Year Luncheon – April 13
- April, May and June – others to join last hour of Academic Council to discuss master planning process to align with strategic commitment #3
- Maryland Grow Your Own (GYO) Educators Grant submitted
 - o Partner with WCPS and Frostburg
 - o WCPS will be main lead
 - o More in-depth details will follow
- VP Schoenenberger requested Dr. Ranalli to inform division directors of open faculty slots for Shared Governance

Other /Announcements

- Next meeting will be April 2, 2026, from 9:00-11:00 am, in STC-182
- K. Hammond
 - o M. Blash will be the interim Nursing division director
 - o D. Nally retiring
 - o G. Yurek potentially retiring
- Dr. Poole
 - o BISFA Student Art Show March 27, 6-8 pm
 - o HCC Spring 2026 Design Portfolio Review Event April 16, 5-7 pm
 - o Spring Student Art Show April 23, 4:30-7:00 pm
 - o Spring Production: Urinetown April 24-26
 - o Spring Music Ensemble April 28, 6:30-8:30 pm
 - o Spring Dance Recital May 1, 7-9 pm

Future Meetings

May 7, 2026
June 4, 2026

July 2, 2026
August 6, 2026

September 3, 2026
October 1, 2026

cc: J. Klauber, H. Soeffker-Culicerto, C. Ohl-Gigliotti, B. Kirkpatrick, faculty, division office associates