

Student Affairs Division Meeting Minutes

Date: September 15, 2026

Facilitator: Cassandra Goldman

Attendees: Chad Groves, Amber Malone, Levi Johnson, Libby McVicker, Wain Davis

Recorder: Katie Hinderliter

Meeting Summary

Key Focus Areas

- Review of student admissions and enrollment processes, including the 2027 student application, registration form, and international transcript evaluation requirements.
- Planning and assessment of student success initiatives, including Moonlight Mondays, the Student Affairs Division Workshop, the Momentum Framework, and the FY27 Operational Plan.

Major Decisions

- Approved the student applications of Torrie Rider, Ava Isle, and Megan Smith to serve on the Student Advisory Board for AY 26-27.
- Approved the recommendation to continue Moonlight Mondays on the two Mondays preceding New Student Orientation for the fall 2027 semester.

Upcoming Deadlines

- September 30, 2026 – Priority consideration for applications for the full-time Student Services Specialist position at WVC.
- October 9, 2026 – Student Affairs Division Workshop at WVC.
- November 2026 – Athletic award options for Fall 2027 finalized.

Agenda Items

1. Student Application

Discussion

- Amber reported that the 2027 student application is now available at [IECC.EDU/APPLY](https://iecc.edu/apply). The Common Application is also available online, with IECC accepting first-year applications. IECC entered into a two-year agreement with

Common Application effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2028. During the first two years of the agreement, IECC is exempt from all per-application fees. Amber noted that SALT may want to revisit application fees at the end of the Common Application agreement.

- Amber further stated that, with Microsoft Publisher support ending on October 1, 2026, the registration form is being reviewed for a redesign, including the possibility of adding questions regarding household income and transportation assistance needs, starting Summer 2027. Work on the registration form will begin in October, to be printed in January/February.

Action Items

- Continue discussion at next month's meeting.

2. InCred Transcript Verification

Discussion

- Levi reported on an issue regarding transcript evaluation for international students seeking to determine athletic eligibility through verification of high school equivalency. The NJCAA has partnered with InCred and recommends that international student-athletes use InCred to evaluate and verify academic records for eligibility to participate in intercollegiate sports. Levi is updating the IECC catalog language on international admissions to differentiate between athletes and non-athletes. International student-athletes will be required to submit official transcripts through an InCred account, while transcripts from non-athletes will continue to be accepted through an approved Educational Degree Evaluation Service.

Action Items

- Levi will work with Amber to bring a final version of the International student admission process back to next month's meeting to ensure consistency among the IECC Catalog, website, and Athletic Handbook.

3. Grant Update

Discussion

- Libby reported that IECC has applied for the FY27 College Student Mental Health & Success Initiative grant and is awaiting a decision on funding. Two grant applications have been approved internally, the FY27 Noncredit Workforce Training Initiative and the FY27 IBT Grant. There are two grant applications in process, including the ICCB FY27 Illinois Rural Health Initiative – ROOTS: Rural Outreach, Opportunity, Training and Success, and the FY27 Illinois Rural Health Initiative – REACH: Rural Education, Access, Careers and Health. The PATH grant

program, funded through an ICCB grant, is no longer available for the 2026–2027 academic year, as funding was not included in the State of Illinois Fiscal Year 2027 budget.

Action Items

- No action required.

4. ISAB Student Application for AY26-27

Discussion

- Three student applications were submitted for review and approval: Torrie Rider (FCC), Ava Isle (FCC), and Megan Smith (OCC).

Action Items

- SALT approved the student applications of Torrie Rider, Ava Isle, and Megan Smith to serve on the Student Advisory Board for AY 26-27.

5. Moonlight Mondays Data

Discussion

- Cassandra shared data from the 2026 Moonlight Mondays events that were held on August 3, August 10, and August 24. The data reflected the number of walk-ins and registered students from each campus. Cassandra noted that attendance was lower on August 24 and recommended continuing the event next fall, focusing on the two Mondays before New Student Orientation and not offering an event after classes begin.

Action Items

- SALT approved the recommendation to continue Moonlight Mondays on the two Mondays preceding New Student Orientation for the fall 2027 semester.

6. Dean of Students Update

Discussion

- The search committee conducted interviews and recommended a candidate for the Dean of Students position, pending Board approval.

Action Items

- No action required.

7. Student Affairs Division Workshop

Discussion

- Cassandra shared a draft agenda for the Student Affairs Division Workshop, scheduled for October 9, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at WVC. The workshop theme builds upon the District Workshop theme, CONNECT (we are one institution connected by a common purpose) and aligns with Pillar I of the Strategic Engagement Plan through the theme CONNECT: From Connection to Completion (examining whether our students are actually experiencing these connections).

- Dr. Fowler will provide the welcome message, and each member of SALT will lead an activity. Proposed activities include:

Activity 1 – *Connect the Dots: A Student in Motion*: Identifying the “silent middle” and exploring ways to support those students through TimelyCare. Cassandra plans to invite Kathy Davis to facilitate this session.

Activity 2 – *The Disconnect* will be presented by TRIO SSS and International.

Activity 3 – *Who’s Connected to This Student?* will be presented by Amber and Libby.

Activity 4 – Program breakout sessions, allowing Student Affairs departments to discuss program-specific topics and challenges.

Activity 5 – *Closing the Loop* will be presented by Chad (Learning Commons) and Libby.

Action Items

- No action required.

8. Momentum Framework

Discussion

- Dr. Fowler and Cassandra met with Chancellor Taylor to preview the momentum framework that will be used to evaluate IECC’s student success efforts through a data-driven approach. The framework follows the student life cycle from application and enrollment through transfer to another institution or entry into the workforce. Within each phase, numerous data points can be measured. Future discussions will focus on reviewing potential metrics and identifying the data points that are most important to track and assess.

Action Items

- Continue discussion at a future meeting.

9. FY27 Operational Plan

Discussion

- Cassandra provided an update on the progress of the FY27 Operational Plan, including the work on KPI 2, 3, and 4 under Pillar I that remains to be completed. The next Operational Planning meeting is scheduled for September 24.

Action Items

- Continue discussion at next month's meeting.

Additional Announcements

Discussion

- Levi will be out of the office October 4-11, traveling to Hanoi, Vietnam, for a recruiting trip. Cindy Smith and Jaeda Thomason will be absent from the Division Workshop on October 9, attending an articulation conference at SIU-C.
- Levi reported that a federal court issued a nationwide preliminary injunction on September 14, 2026, blocking the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) final rule from taking effect on September 15, 2026. As reported at last month's SALT meeting, DHS published a final rule on July 17, 2026, that would replace the duration of status (D/S) admission framework for F, J, and I nonimmigrants with fixed periods of admission, shorten the departure grace period for F and J visa holders from sixty days to thirty days, and restrict an F-1 student's ability to transfer schools or change academic programs.
- The full-time Student Services Specialist position at WVC has been posted. The search committee established September 30 as the deadline for applicant materials to receive first consideration.
- Procedures 100.16.1 Complaints from Students and 500.12.2 Student Mental Health Needs were removed from the September SEPC agenda for further review.
- The Athletic LOI Award Options for Fall 2027 need to be discussed and finalized prior to the LOI portal opening in November.

Adjournment

Meeting concluded at 3:30 p.m.