

Illinois Eastern Community Colleges
Strategic Engagement Planning Council (SEPC) Minutes
September 2, 2026 | 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. | TLB West Richland Center

Attendees: Tim Taylor, Sheryl Childers, Tona Ambrose, Andrea McDowell, Matt Fowler, Cassandra Goldman, Ryan Hawkins, Sharmila Kakac, Amber Malone, Jessica McDonald, Cathy Robb, Chris Simpson, Paul Tait, Brandon Weger.

Absent: None.

Guests: None.

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Dr. Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and provided an overview of the agenda. He expressed his excitement for joining the team, and reported on recent campus visits. He gave an overview of the format for future Chancellor's reports, the nature of topics that will be discussed, and the plan for distribution. He invited SEPC members to recommend items for inclusion in future reports.

Recognition of Visitors and Guests

Reports

None.

Consent Agenda

Approved items included:

- **August 2026 SEPC Meeting Minutes (Taylor)**
- **Divisional Meeting Minutes (Taylor)**
- **2026 Annual Security Report (Goldman)**- Dean Goldman presented the annual report in compliance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act. The report will now be presented to the Board.
- **2026 Violence Prevention Plan (Goldman)**- In compliance with the Campus Security Enhancement Act of 2008 and in conjunction with IECC Policy 100.25, the plan is reviewed and revised, as necessary, on an annual basis. The plan will now be presented to the Board.
- **Procedure 100.16.1 for Complaints from Students (Goldman)**- Item was removed for additional review.
- **Procedure 500.12.2 Student Mental Health Needs (Goldman)**- Item was removed for further review.

- **Affiliation Agreements (Robb)**
 - None.
- **Grant Update (Hawkins)**

Procedures 100.16.1 and 500.12.2 were removed from the consent agenda for further review.

Action: The following Consent Agenda items were approved:

- August 2026 SEPC Meeting Minutes
- Divisional Meeting Minutes
- 2026 Annual Security Report
- 2026 Violence Prevention Plan
- Grant Update

Policies & Procedures

Reviewed for administrative action:

- **Procedure 500.15 Residency Determination & Verification (Malone)-** The procedure was revised to reflect the updated guidelines for determining residency classification, enrollment reporting, and tuition assessment for undocumented students.
Action: Deferred for additional review.
- **Policy 100.38 General Gift (Taylor)-** The policy has been revised to reflect concise and principle-based guidelines for naming rights. It establishes the Board's expectations concerning philanthropy, stewardship, donor recognition, institutional independence, and public trust. Due to time constraints the proposed revisions were not substantively discussed.
Action: No action taken.
- **Procedure 100.38 Gift Acceptance Donor Recognition and Naming (Taylor)-** The revised procedure translates the expectations of Policy 100.38 into practice. It establishes definitions, review requirements, approval authorities, valuation considerations, due-diligence expectations, naming durations, agreement requirements, and processes for modifying or terminating recognition. Due to time constraints the proposed revisions were not substantively discussed.
Action: No action taken.

Staff Recommendations for Approval

- **Dual Credit Home School Proposal (Ambrose)-** The proposal is intended to offer homeschooled students the opportunity to participate in the IECC Dual Credit program and strengthen the partnership between IECC and the homeschool community. Discussion was had and feedback was given. Suggested edits were noted. The program would launch in Spring 2027. A motion was made to pilot the program on a 5-semester basis, tracking data driven results.
Action: Approved with recommended parameters.
- **Dual Credit Proposal Move from IO to AA (Ambrose)-** The proposal aligns with the refined organizational structure of IECC and transitions the Office of Dual Credit from the Division of Institutional Outreach to the Division of Academic Affairs to allow closer alignment with academic scheduling, faculty load, instructor credentialing, curriculum coordination, and the work of the academic deans. Dr. Taylor asked for sufficient time to explore the broader organizational structure and requested that the item be returned with additional clarification.
Action: Deferred for further review.
- **Crisis Management Plans (Taylor)-** The plans are reviewed and revised, as necessary, on an annual basis. They are intended to ensure compliance with the Illinois Campus Security Enhancement Act of 2008 and serve as guidelines in conjunction with IECC policies, plans, and procedures. The council requested President level review during future annual updates, and requested the addition of President Designee contact information. Campus president designees will be added to the plans, and the documents will be submitted to the ICCB by October 1, 2026. Dr. Taylor is scheduled to meet with Chad Weaver to review current processes and discuss opportunities for future improvement in training, communication, and annual plan development.
Action: Approved with recommended amendments.
- **FY '27 Budget (Hawkins)-** Mr. Hawkins presented the final budget that reflects adjustments from the tentative budget approved in August 2026. Significant changes include EAV growth continuing to exceed expectations, revised estimated tax revenues, the decline of tuition and fee revenues, and a reduction in tuition waiver expenditures. Dr. Taylor shared with the council his vision for future budgets. The budget will now be presented to the Board.
Action: Recommended for approval by the Board of Trustees.

- **Theater Waivers (Simpson)**- President Simpson sought approval to include the waiving of tuition and fees for Theater Production courses DRA 2131 and DRA 2141 into Procedure 500.14.2. The council identified a need for broader input and comprehensive review. The topic will receive additional review and discussion with appropriate stakeholders before returning for consideration.

Action: Deferred for additional review.

- **Honest Game (Simpson)**- Following further collaboration with Campus Presidents and Athletic Directors, President Simpson returned the proposal to purchase Honest Game. The service will provide verification acceptable to NJCAA during an audit. SEPC considered a one-year commitment.

Action: Approved.

Informational & Discussion Items

- **October IECC Workshop (McDowell)**- Workshops will be held on each campus on October 9, 2026. All divisional staff and faculty will attend.
- **Constitution Day Events at IECC Colleges (Goldman)**- IECC will observe Constitution Day on Thursday, September 17, 2026. The colleges will participate in a variety of activities and resources to promote the study of the Constitution. A list of events was provided for SEPC review and will be available on the IECC website and social media platforms.
- **Timeline for BOT Submission (Taylor)**- Due to time constraints, this item was not considered and will be carried forward to a future meeting.
- **Governance Discussion (Taylor)**- Due to time constraints, this item was not considered and will be carried forward to a future meeting.

Capital Projects: None.

District Finance:

Approval of Personnel Items:

- **Special Assignment for Potential Assistant AD at LTC (McDowell/Ambrose)**- President Ambrose requested to appoint an Assistant Athletic Director at LTC on a one-year basis.
Action: Deferred for additional review.
- **Change in Status LTC Administrative Assistant (McDowell/Ambrose)**- President Ambrose requested a change in status for the LTC Administrative Assistant. Due to time constraints, this item was not considered and will be carried forward to a future meeting.

- **Annual Bonuses for MIT Instructors (McDowell)-** Mrs. McDowell presented the annual practice of providing bonuses to designated Mining and Industrial Technology instructors in lieu of base salary increases. The item will now be presented to the Board.
Action: Approved by consensus.
- **Procedure Manual vs. Specific Job Function Manual (McDowell)-** Mrs. McDowell explained that the item was intended as a future discussion regarding the distinction between institutional procedure and manuals that address specific job functions. The topic will be treated as informational/discussion rather than an item requiring approval and will be carried forward for future discussion.

Other Business- Dr. Taylor requested that future SEPC proposals and supporting materials be provided sufficiently in advance to allow questions to be addressed with presenters prior to the meeting. He emphasized the importance of SEPC serving as a meaningful leadership forum for institutional review, communication, accountability, and thoughtful consideration of recommendations.

Adjournment: Due to time constraints, following Dr. Taylor's departure Dr. Robb continued the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 12:02p.m.

Next Meeting: October 7, 2026 @ 9 am