

President's Advisory Council
Thursday, November 16, 2023
4 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
Room 3320

Present: Brooke Anttila-Escoto, Amy Brendmoen, Zuki Ellis, Bruce Kessel, Matt Lindgren, Tom McCarthy, Joe Nathan, Khaliq Rogers, Rejoice Udochukwu, Dee Dee Peaslee, Austin Calhoun, Sarah Carrico, Paula Kinney, Jennie Lewis, Greg Mellas,1 Greg Rathert, Wendy Roberson, Scott Wilson

Absent: Ryan Caulfield, Andrew Collins, Sarah Crippen, Jeanelle Foster, Kay Francis Garland, Jim Gleb, Karin McCabe, Erica Schumacher, Maggie Zimmerman

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Dr. Peaslee commenced the meeting at 4:06 p.m.

Meeting Recap

Dr. Peaslee provided an update on items discussed at the September meeting. As part of the website redesign, council member biographies will be created. The biographies will be shared with the council before being posted to the website. She said that since this year begins a restructure of the meetings, it presents an opportunity to assess the responsibilities of council members, determine which voices to include on the council, and establish effective ways to foster connections between the college and various individuals and organizations.

Round Table Discussion

Dr. Kinney said the theme for the meeting is "Our Place in Saint Paul," and would largely focus on exploring our connection to the community and the impact we have within it. She said anchor institutions often serve as economic drivers, but can also be cultural or socially based institutions. Such institutions are called anchors due to their lasting presence within their community. Dr. Kinney then opened it up for discussion on key takeaways from the materials provided prior to the meeting.

Discussion

Mr. Rogers said with Saint Paul College's work on becoming an anchor institution, there are opportunities to serve people, including PSEO opportunities, education, and the possibility of becoming a hub for supportive services for the community.

Ms. Brendmoen said with her role on the Saint Paul City Council, public libraries are their anchor institutions, and are places people feel safe and welcome. Dr. Peaslee said a focus for the college is to be a welcoming environment, and Dr. Calhoun asked what are ways to build knowledge and understanding of who Saint Paul College is. Mr. Mellas noted the longevity of the institution, and how to capitalize on the long-term existence. This could include demonstrating the long-term impacts the college has on the community in who the institution hires, its partnerships with K-12, and the college's vendors.

Dr. Kinney noted libraries and the local YWCA were anchor institutions for her growing up, and asked what were the anchor institutions council members had growing up. Mr. Rogers said community recreation centers were his anchor institutions, as they provided after school programs, and internship and job opportunities. Ms. Ellis also said recreation centers were anchor institutions for her, and added people were also anchors who could offer support. Ms. Roberson said the church where she grew up was her anchor institution, as they provided trainings, child care, and was a place for the senior community to gather.

Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities and the Anchor Learning Network Project

Ms. Roberson said part of becoming an anchor institution is to take into consideration the college's place within the city of Saint Paul. The Minnesota State System's Equity 2030 goal launched by the previous chancellor, as well as Saint Paul College's mission, vision, and values all incorporate how the college brings value to our community and the role the college plays within their community. She added as being part of the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities, the college was able to join their Anchor Learning Network. In being an anchor institution, she asked how council members and the college can work together to mutually benefit the long-term health and well-being of the community, particularly in ways beyond recruiting students. Dr. Kinney added a group from the college was able to attend the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities' annual conference, and had conference attendees share a key takeaway from the conference.

Discussion

Ms. Roberson shared that one of the sessions she attended focused on community engagement. The session discussed an institution that held poetry readings at a local coffee shop where they had cross-generational attendees. It allowed them to discuss not only poetry, but other topics.

Dr. Calhoun noted some of the institutions that are in the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities are private or fairly large institutions. She said the work Saint Paul College does will look different from what other institutions are doing.

Mr. Mellas said a focus for the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities is to build wealth in the communities the institutions are in. This includes where the institution is spending money, where those who are hired by the institution reside, and how the institution contributes to the workforce ecosystem as a neighbor, a regional employer, and in job opportunities for its graduates.

Dr. Kinney said she was excited about what the potential could be for Saint Paul College. She said a session she attended discussed an institution that had a zone that previously experienced a lot of joblessness and poverty, and how they were able to help change the economic mobility in that area.

Mr. Lindgren asked what organizations were part of the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities. Dr. Peaslee said it is a national organization. She added she serves on their board, and Saint Paul College is the first community college to do so. Augsburg University, the University of Minnesota, and Metro state are also local members. Ms. Roberson added the urban and metropolitan-area component is a major aspect of the organization, as what institutions in those areas experience is vastly different from institutions located in rural areas.

Small Group Activity and Report Out

Dr. Kinney provided an overview of the ideation moment and asked the council to consider how might Saint Paul College engage their community in ways that enrich it beyond the workforce. She then had members discuss their ideas in small groups and had the groups post four ideas on a board. Council members had the opportunity to vote on what they believe Saint Paul College could do. Dr. Kinney said their ideas would be discussed at the next Executive Cabinet meeting, and would provide a follow up at the January President's Advisory Council meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

**Minutes submitted by Jennie Lewis
December 4, 2023**