

President's Advisory Council
Thursday, September 28, 2023
4 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
Room 3320

Present: Andrew Collins, Sarah Crippen, Zuki Ellis, Jeanelle Foster, Matt Lindgren, Karin McCabe, Erica Schumacher, Rejoice Udochukwu, Dee Dee Peaslee, Sarah Carrico, Kay Francis Garland, Paula Kinney, Jennie Lewis, John Schlueter, Wendy Roberson, Scott Wilson

Absent: Brooke Anttila-Escoto, Amy Brendmoen, Ryan Caulfield, Jim Gleb, Bruce Kessel, Tom McCarthy, Austin Calhoun, Greg Rathert

Welcome and Introduction

Ms. Lewis commenced the meeting at 4:08 p.m. She introduced the Lo-Tech Social Network activity. After the activity, she said the information the council members provided would be used as part of their own mini-bio for the college's new President's Advisory Council webpage.

Review of President Advisory Council Purpose and Goals

Dr. Peaslee reviewed the President's Advisory Council charter. She said over the summer council membership was reviewed and a couple of members were asked to rotate off and a few others were invited to extend their rotation. She noted council membership would transition from a formalized nomination process. Dr. Peaslee said the council is not a decision-making body, but would serve as a group to help expand the college's circle of friends, as well as offer advice on what is occurring in the community and any impacts that could have on Saint Paul College. She added council members are encouraged to attend additional college events, such as scholarship breakfasts, music events, and other college events that celebrate students' accomplishments. Dr. Peaslee said a QR code is provided for the council to provide any feedback.

Presidential Vision

Dr. Peaslee reaffirmed the commitments the college made through the strategic planning process, and noted the will be revisited next year in identifying ways to build upon it. She said Saint Paul College draws students beyond the immediate area and Ramsey County. Within the community, there continues to be gaps in income levels and levels of education completed. Within these gaps, there is also opportunity for Saint Paul College to impact the lives of the college's community members and help more students of color achieve and complete their education at Saint Paul College. Students who come to Saint Paul College are not only impacting their own lives, but also the lives of their families. Nationally, 58% of students say they attend college to improve their job and career outcomes. When looking at the distribution of the college's students and the programs they choose, historically, students who are underrepresented do not choose programs which lead to high-demand, high-wage jobs, such as programs in Business, STEM, or the Health Care field. The vision of graduating 1500 students of color from high demand academic programs leading to jobs providing a family-sustaining wage by 2028 will allow Saint Paul College to help address the disparities seen in the community.

Discussion

Mr. Lindgren noted the national statistic of 58% of students attend college to improve their job outcomes seems low. Dr. Peaslee said those surveyed include students who attend community and technical colleges, as well as four-year institutions, and added those who attend a Liberal Arts college may be considering other factors beyond job outcomes.

Ms. Ellis said if a student is told they need to complete their Associate of Arts degree first, they may be focusing on obtaining that before pursuing further options. Ms. McCabe asked on ways that allow students to dream and consider what comes next after achieving their education. Dr. Peaslee emphasized the importance of having students see themselves in a career, and Ms. Francis Garland said the Students Affairs team focuses on building relationships with students and exploring what their dream job or business opportunity may be, and then providing pathways that could lead to that opportunity.

Mr. Lindgren asked when a student needs to commit to a program. Ms. Francis Garland said due to financial aid requirements, students receiving financial aid need to declare a major before starting classes. She said Saint Paul College is piloting "Light the Fire" courses, which would allow students to take courses in areas that interest them, and help ensure students are not enrolled in courses that are not beneficial to them. Ms. Francis Garland added by next fall the Student Affairs team will be asking prospective students critical questions about their interests so by the time the student attends orientation, the college knows what the student wants to do.

Ms. Crippen asked if there is a recruiting effort. Ms. Francis Garland said the college's recruiting plan aligns with the strategic plan. She added the admissions team considers recruiting efforts beyond high schools, including making partnerships with adult learning centers. Retention of students is also important, as they can also help with recruiting new students. Dr. Peaslee said connecting different educational opportunities, such as stackable credentials and pathways from non-credit courses to credit programs, could also help.

Ms. Udochukwu said providing students internships, field learning, or volunteer opportunities can also help a student identify a career pathway. She recommended if an employer is attending a career fair, to engage with students and ask them what courses they are taking and provide possible connections to employees within the organization to help students get a feel for the field.

Circle of Influence Activity

Dr. Kinney said as part of Strategic Direction Four, council members can help the college build and enhance relationships between Saint Paul College and community partners. She introduced the Circle of Influence activity, and had members discuss in small groups organizations and contacts they could connect the college to.

Discussion

Dr. Kinney had council members share one person from each group that the college should connect with.

Ms. Schumacher recommended Hanna Getachew-Kreusser, Executive Director of Face to Face. Face to Face serves young people who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of becoming homeless, and connects them to solutions in helping them with whatever challenges they may be facing. Services include the Safe Zone Drop-In Center, which is located in downtown St. Paul.

Mr. Collins recommended Mitra Jalali, who is the St. Paul City Council representative for Ward Four.

Ms. Roberson recommended a couple Saint Paul residents who have a variety of connections to other organizations and individuals.

Ms. Ellis recommended Kamalee Williams, who works with the St. Paul Parks and Recreation department and their Right Track program.

Mr. Lindgren recommended Mikisha Nation, Executive Director for the Teach for America, Twin Cities chapter. He said Ms. Nation is deeply committed to ending educational inequity.

Ms. McCabe recommended Sherry Rimers, Executive Director for the Ain Dah Yung Center. The Ain Dah Yung Center provides emergency shelter to indigenous youth, as well as provides homeless services and support services for indigenous families.

Ms. Crippen recommended Senator Erin Murphy, who is the state senator for Saint Paul College and is a nurse by training, as well as a friend of Ms. Crippen's. She also recommended Howard Ornstein, a former state representative and a founding partner for a foundation that supports St. Paul public education.

Ms. Francis Garland recommended Kevion Ellis, Vice President of Business and Talent Development with the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Foster recommended the organization 180 Degrees, who provides emergency shelter, supportive housing, and services for youth and adults.

Dr. Kinney thanked everyone for their recommendations, and said the list would be shared with the council members as part of the November meeting packet.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jennie Lewis

October 10, 2023