

President's Advisory Council
Thursday, March 7, 2024
4 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
Room 1514

Present: Brooke Anttila-Escoto, Yusef Carrillo, Bruce Kessel, Matt Lindgren, Karin McCabe, Khalique Rogers, Dee Dee Peaslee, Austin Calhoun, Sarah Carrico, Jennie Lewis, Greg Rathert, Wendy Roberson, Scott Wilson, Sonya Zuker

Absent: Andrew Collins, Ryan Caulfield, Sarah Crippen, Adam Evenstad, Tom McCarthy, Erica Schumacher, Rejoice Udochukwu, Erica Valliant, Maggie Zimmerman, Kay Francis Garland, Paula Kinney

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Dr. Peaslee commenced the meeting at 4:08 p.m.

Meeting Recap

Dr. Peaslee said at the January meeting, council members participated in an activity where they did a simulation on the life of Saint Paul College's students and the barriers they may experience. At the end of the meeting, members were asked to connect with someone to share about the college and students' basic needs. Dr. Peaslee asked for the council members to share who they met with over the past month.

Mr. Rogers said at the last Minnesota Legislative session, legislation on financial literacy programming for elementary and secondary students was passed. He recently met with the lead legislator authors of the bill to continue the conversation on financial literacy, as well as having additional opportunities for service learning.

Ms. McCabe noted she has a scholarship with the college and is in conversation with the Friends of Saint Paul College Foundation to change the wording in the scholarship so it can be unrestricted.

Mr. Lindgren said he met with Curt Groebner, who is a Vice President at GROEBNER, a distributor of products for natural gas. Mr. Lindgren shared the mission of Saint Paul College and encouraged their organization to become involved with the college.

Ms. Anttila-Escoto said she met with the workforce director at her organization to discuss ways funding could stretch to further support their constituents.

The Year in Review

Ms. Lewis provided a recap of the discussions held over the past year at the President's Advisory Council meetings. At the beginning of the year, the President's Advisory Council's purpose and goals were updated, as well as a revised meeting structure, with the goal to have more engagement and discussion

opportunities throughout the meetings. At the September meeting, President Peaslee's vision was also shared. During the November meeting, the council discussed our place in Saint Paul, as well as the role of anchor institutions. In January, the meeting focused on the cost of attending college beyond tuition costs. The council also discussed ways Saint Paul College's Student Affairs unit is creating a relationship-rich environment and a holistic approach to support student success.

Feedback Exercise and Conversation

Ms. Lewis said prior to the meeting, members had the opportunity to complete a survey on the structure and productivity of the President's Advisory Council meetings. She shared the results of the survey before introducing the group activity. Council members broke out into small groups to discuss the updated meeting format. After the small group discussions were complete, each group provided a debrief of their conversations.

Discussion

Dr. Calhoun said her table changed their question from "How engaged and focused were you throughout the meeting? When did your attention wander," to "Is the purpose of the meeting to be engaged by the college or what President's Advisory Council members can do for the college to show their engagement." She said the table discussed finding the overlap in the work of the college and the work of the council members' respective organizations, as well as identifying what stories to tell or experiences to share.

Ms. Zuker's table discussed "What is one thing we should start doing, stop doing, and continue doing for future meetings." She said things to continue include covering the data and making connections with the community. Things to stop doing include stop admiring the problem and take action to address it. She said recommendations on things to start doing include having more engagement and networking among council members, and giving members more homework.

Ms. Carrico's table discussed "Do you feel the meeting agendas reflect the right priorities? Were there any relevant topics missing." She said feedback overall was positive, with meeting topics aligned with the strategic plan and the president's vision. The discussions also focused on the importance of maintaining a balance between providing information and engaging in robust conversations. Additionally, it was mentioned that council members have the potential to contribute more and that the College should not hesitate to seek their assistance. She added there is an opportunity to address hot topics being discussed at Saint Paul College and identify synergies between the College and council members' organizations.

Ms. Lewis thanked everyone for their input and said she would aggregate the information and share with Executive Cabinet.

Overview of Next Year's Theme: "Strategic Pathways: Aligning Workforce Needs with Future Planning"

Ms. Lewis said the College's current strategic plan, *Creating a Stronger Future*, is a three-year plan that ends in 2025. Next year will begin the strategic planning process, which will be an iterative process of refining and building upon the College's existing strategies. The President's Advisory Council meetings will be focused on facilitating input and feedback sessions to guide the development of the next

strategic plan. Additionally, potential discussion topics will include workforce training and continuing education; student success including Guided Learning Pathways and career development; trends analysis and environmental scan workshop; an overview of the Academic Program Optimization process; and visioning sessions for the next strategic plan. Ms. Lewis shared the Strategic Plan progress report, which can be found on Saint Paul College's website, [Strategic Plan Progress Report 2023.pdf \(saintpaul.edu\)](https://www.saintpaul.edu/strategic-plan-progress-report-2023.pdf).

Looking Ahead—Workforce Trends

Ms. Lewis noted a few members from Saint Paul College were able to attend a webinar held by Ramsey County Workforce Solutions and RealTime Talent which discussed the top workforce trends in Ramsey County. She introduced Dr. Duncan, who would share more information about the ways the College is supporting Ramsey County's labor needs.

Dr. Duncan said the webinar highlighted three top fields—childcare, healthcare, and cybersecurity. In framing the President's vision with the top trends to watch in Ramsey County's workforce landscape, Dr. Duncan noted the majority of Saint Paul College's programs help support workforce needs. In addition, between 2018 and 2023, the share of enrollment consisting of students of color has increased in the areas of Childhood Development, Health Sciences, and Information Technology. He noted there is an opportunity for growth for program completion rates among students of color in the program areas of Health Sciences and Information Technology. Students in these program areas are graduating into these respective occupations. However, Dr. Duncan noted the data in regards to job placement is more difficult to obtain as the survey response rate can be relatively low. Dr. Duncan asked council members what recommendations they have for increasing student interest in these programs.

Discussion

Mr. Carrillo said one of the areas the Saint Paul Public Schools Board is focusing on is ways to engage and encourage students who are interested in the trades into a career and technical education track. Ms. McCabe noted that the trades industry can be a great option for individuals with a genuine interest in the field, and some aspects of the trades can be very technical.

Mr. Rogers mentioned the organization Hack the Gap, an organization that aims to increase access to opportunities for future technologists, particularly women and non-binary individuals. One of the programs the organization offers is Learn and Earn opportunities, including programs in project management and architectural design, user experience, and data analytics. He said there could be more opportunities for collaboration between workforce and learning experiences. Ms. Zuker added numerous entry-level positions in the technology sector typically require a minimum of one year of relevant experiences. She noted the importance and advantages of internship opportunities for students as they can acquire both academic and practical experience.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jennie Lewis

March 22, 2024