



Information Technology Council Meeting

Thursday, August 13, 2026

Minutes

Members' Present: Jeff Coiner (Chair), Greg Rainwater (Deputy Chair), Mary Bohlen, Dr. David Meinert (Remote), Tucker Starkey, Angela Barker, Keri Elrod (Remote), William Hader, Brad Davidson (Remote), Brian Hayes, Breno Viani, Kevin Piercy, and Drew Marcum.

Also present: Theresa McCoy and Brian Leas

1. Welcome

Jeff Coiner

Jeff Coiner called the meeting to order at 3:34 pm and greeted the IT Council. Jeff welcomed **Keri Elrod**, who joined the IT Council for the first time. He noted that IT is working closely with Keri, CJ, and other IT staff in West Plains.

The Council reviewed the meeting materials, including the July meeting minutes, agenda, and Innovation Funding Proposals spreadsheet.

No questions or concerns were raised regarding the July minutes, and the Council proceeded with the meeting.

- Approval of minutes from 07.09.2026
Decision: Previous meeting minutes were approved as submitted.
Action Item: Nicole to post the approved minutes on the website.

2. Innovation Funding Items

All

Jeff Coiner introduced the primary topic of the meeting: the FY2026 Innovation Funding requests. Approximately 13 proposals have been submitted and reviewed. The Council had previously discussed developing a consistent process and rubric for evaluating proposals.

Potential evaluation criteria discussed included:

- Ongoing or matching funding available
- Direct student benefit
- Degree of innovation
- Alignment with University strategic plan goals
- Ability to begin with a smaller pilot

The total amount requested across the proposals was slightly more than \$600,000, while approximately \$275,000 had been allocated for FY2026 Innovation Funding.

Jeff presented a proposed approach for addressing the funding limitations. Three requests were identified as potential candidates for funding through other sources rather than the Innovation Funding allocation:

1. **VR-Enabled Experiential Learning Research Platform** – approximately \$275,000.
2. **Additional D10 Unit for the Outreach Program** – approximately \$5,500.
3. **3D Projection and Atmos for Craig Hall 204** – approximately \$87,000.

Removing these three projects would leave approximately 10 requests totaling about \$235,000, which fits within the available innovation budget while retaining flexibility for cost adjustments.

Discussion

- Council members generally supported the proposed approach.
- Members agreed the remaining projects appeared innovative and student focused.
- Discussion included the need to communicate funded projects to students so they can see the impact of technology fee funding.
- Greg recommended capturing improvements to the proposal solicitation process before the next funding cycle, including potential new categories and additional information requirements.

Next Steps

- Project teams will be invited to present their proposals to the Council before final funding approvals.
- Presentations may occur over one or more upcoming meetings.
- Nicole Muse will assist in coordinating proposal presentations.

3. Classroom Upgrade Funds

Brian Leas

Brian Leas reviewed priorities for the previously approved \$1 million classroom technology upgrade initiative. The primary focus areas are classroom AV deferred maintenance and converting large lecture spaces from aging projectors to Direct-View LED displays.

- Large, heavily used classrooms were prioritized based on technology age and utilization.
- Carrington Auditorium and the Glass Hall lecture spaces were identified as significant priorities.
- Approximately \$505,000 would fund the first eight projects.
- LED displays offer longer lifespans, reduced maintenance, improved visual quality, and a stronger long-term investment than replacing projectors.
- Most installations are expected to occur during the summer and will require coordination with Facilities and completion of necessary electrical and network infrastructure.

CHEK and Sicheluff Hall: Technology upgrades were identified to support consistency during renovations and address aging equipment, including Sicheluff equipment dating to the 2017 digital conversion.

Future Classroom Technology: The Council discussed standardized instructor stations, expanded USB-C connectivity and charging, mobile-device-first instruction, and wireless presentation capabilities.

Future Classroom Technology Direction

Brian discussed:

- Standardized instructor stations.
- Expanded USB-C connectivity and charging capabilities.

- Increased support for mobile-device-first classroom instruction.
- Continued wireless presentation capabilities.

Jeff will meet with the Provost's Office to discuss funding strategy and project prioritization before moving forward.

Future IT Council Topics

Jeff requested suggestions for future meeting agendas and tours.

Planned Topics

- JVIC technology tour and updates.
- IT Division overview and data center tour.
- Artificial Intelligence discussion, including:
 - Current institutional uses.
 - Emerging requests from campus.
 - Available AI tools and resources.
 - Student perspectives and involvement.

Additional Suggestions from Members

- College of Agriculture Innovation Center technologies, including drone initiatives.
- Residence Life technology operations and student experience technologies.
- Updates from Missouri State-West Plains IT initiatives.
- Additional tours of smaller operational units utilizing technology in innovative ways.

4. Next meeting on Thursday, September 3, 2026

All

- 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm
- Glass Hall, Room 0498

The members of the IT Council did not have any other business to discuss.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:19 p.m.