

University Council – 5/5/2026

Welcomes –

- Dr. Heidi Backes and Dr. Bill Sandel (Fac. Senate Chair and incoming Chair, respectively);
- Eric Schick – CFO;
- Lance Renner – Testing Center Director

HLC –

- Main campus HLC – 10 year reaccreditation, no citations or concerns; press release will be shared later, so keep it internal until things are finalized

Gas and Water Lines and Parking –

- Upcoming City Utilities water/gas replacement
 - JQH and National Ave, also Cherry St.
 - Starts July 1
 - Timeline is 4-5 months
 - Likely to reoccur on main campus next summer
 - Project manager will coordinate internally
- Other projects
 - Carrington Drive replacement – May 9 – June 1
 - Stadium east bleacher railing – May 9
 - Lot maintenance in 21, 35, 44, BPN and BPS – dates posted after BoG
 - Blunt Hall Briggs St. and Lot 18A
 - Grand Street + JER Complex – Grand closing to 1-lane westbound; starts June 1, runs to start of school in August
- Administrative Services blog will share updates and more information

Spring Commencement + Provost Updates

- 9am – Business, Ag, Interdisciplinary
- 1pm – CNAS and MCHHS
- 5pm – RCASH and Education
- Student speaker info in the slides
- 2,625 total degrees, breakdown in the slides
- Barri Tinkler will take over as interim Chief Academic Strategy Officer (for Ken Brown)

West Plains

- HLC – recommendation was that probation be lifted with minimal follow-up (one concern, follow up in 2028); also not finalized, so keep it internal
- Strategic Planning process continues – updates on themes and major goals in the slides
- Vet Tech program updates
- Budget updates (some layoffs, some closing of lines; tough year)

FY27 Budget updates – Matt Morris

- Presenting “1-pager” to the Board this week, identifying primary differences between last year’s budget and this
- 5% undergrad and grad tuition increase was approved and is now updated on the website; similar to peers across the state
- State appropriation seems likely to end up flat
- \$0 compensation increase to pay; however, MOSERS and healthcare contributions increased, salary ranges adjusted slightly, so those at the bottom may have a small increase as a result
- Will reevaluate possibility of compensation increase after fall census, but enrollment is looking to flat to down, particularly with graduate enrollment

Student Retention Team – Jeff Foster (industrial organizational psychology master’s program professor)

- Focus on identifying at-risk students and directing them to resources through individualized retention and communication.
- Retention model --- academic factors (primarily GPA) and emotional factors (primarily confidence, goals, emotional attachment) drive retention scores

Policy changes –

- FERPA updates, Angela Young; permanent address city, state and zip code are still included (for sharing academic honors, etc.)
- Dawn Medley update – 1st year student are up a bit, international enrollment deposits are up, flat currently on transfers
- Summer financial aid enrollment requirements – Rob Moore and Matthew Brizzi
 - Changes to federal law requiring our policy changes
 - No change to graduate student requirements, undergrad only
 - Summer Pell awards now mirror fall and spring
 - Changes have been communicated w/ Cabinet, student advising centers, affected students, athletics, and otherUnivs