

The University Council is responsible for determining the degree to which the university is meeting its mission and is engaged in comprehensive, ongoing, systematic assessment of its work that leads to mission fulfillment and improvement.

MINUTES

President Peters welcomed the Council to its first meeting of this academic year. After introductions, Dr. Peters reflected on the history of the University Council as well as the Presidential Advisory Committees and the importance of the work of each unit.

1. Banner Optimization Project (*Tom Litterer*)

Chief Information Officer Tom Litterer provided an overview of the Banner Optimization Project. This project was based on the feedback from the University Budget Advisory Committee (UBAC) survey done in the spring of 2024 and approved by President Peters, with the support of President's Cabinet. Sustainability dollars received from the State are funding 100% of the work. The project will address the current usage of the Banner system and provide upgrades and operations to modernize our use of tools and best practices and increase efficiencies. The areas identified to work through these Banner upgrades are financial aid, human resources, finance, accounts receivable and student services.

2. Strategic Plan Update (*President Peters*)

With the implementation of our new Strategic Plan, President Peters noted that the divisions reporting directly to him have completed a strategic plan for their unit. He explained that a matrix is being developed to show how each of their plans aligns to the university's plan and this will be presented to the Board of Trustees at the February meeting. He also noted that departments across campus are working on the development of their plans. As we engage with the new Strategic Plan, it's important for members of the campus community to know the university's mission and core values to build them into our daily practices. The presentation is available on the [University Council website](#).

3. Accreditation Update (*Judy Sylva*)

Associate Provost Judy Sylva provided a timeline and next steps for our accreditation process. We submitted an ad hoc report in March 2024 to address a recommendation from

our Spring 2023 evaluation with regards to financial stability and sustainability. While the report was accepted, we were given a Notice of Concern in July 2024. She explained that while a Notice of Concern is an official action, it is not a public document. In response to the notice, a draft of a Financial Resources Review (FRR) is due December 20. An ad hoc report will be due February 21, 2025, and the final FRR will be due February 28, 2025, to prepare for our site visit on April 4, 2025. The presentation is available on the [University Council website](#).

4. Advisory Committee Updates

- **University Budget Advisory Committee (UBAC) (*Zach Hammerle*)**

Tri-chairs Zach Hammerle and Melanie Landon-Hays provided an update. Since they have many new members this year, they've spent some time this term reviewing the results of last year's survey. They are also ensuring that their work is in alignment with the Strategic Plan and that strategies for academic program proposals are tied to the strategies and not people. The committee's goal is to realign the work of the group to UBAC's original charge.

- **University Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Committee (UDIAC) (*Dominique Vargas*)**

UDIAC is revamping and revising its goals and purpose. They are working to rebuild their membership and will focus on the equity assessment and review data and address concerns shared in the campus climate survey this year.

- **University Technology Advisory Committee (UTAC) (*Chelle Batchelor*)**

UTAC's areas of focus this year will include developing a digital accessibility policy (fall/winter), work on data governance (winter/spring), software procurement (spring/summer) and support the Banner Optimization project. They outlined their strategy to address these topics throughout the year. The presentation is available on the [University Council website](#).

5. Announcements

Upcoming meetings: March 12, 2025 & June 11, 2025