**Meeting Name: Academic Council Minutes**
**Date:** October 26, 2026
**Place:** L304 3:00 pm

**Members: (Voting Members in Bold)**

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| ☐ **Darin Moeller** | ☐ **Revathi Vongsiprasom** | ☐ **Michael Rohlena** | ☐ **Teri Peterson** |
| ☐ **Sima Dabir** | ☐ **Tawnya Beermann** | ☐ **Linda Mercer** | ☐ **Mellisa Flanigan** |
| ☐ **Sarah Deck** | ☐ **Tyler Phelps** | ☐ **Amber Ridgway** | ☐ |
| ☐ Amy Hueser | ☐ Rick Niles | ☐ Carmen Wilson | ☐ Chris Mansfield |
| ☐ Christina Brandon | ☐ Erin Volk | ☐ Greg Strong | ☐ Holly DeGrote |
| ☐ Holly Olson | ☐ Jason Palsma | ☐ Jennifer Weber | ☐ Jessica Huggenberger |
| ☐ Katey Fritz | ☐ Kerry Patchin | ☐ Kevin Woockman | ☐ Mike Gasaway |
| ☐ Mike Meister | ☐ Lauren Tabbert | ☐ Teresa McElroy | ☐ Brenda Wright |

**Comet CLASS**

**Attendees:** Jason Palsma, Mellisa Flanigan, Sarah Deck, Darin Moeller, Brenda Wright, Amy Hueser, Mike Meister, Jennifer Weber, Michael Rohlena, Kevin Woockman, Carmen Wilson (representing Teri Peterson), Lauren Tabbert, Kerry Patchin, Jessica Huggenberger, Greg Strong, Holly DeGrote, Amber Ridgway, Tyler Phelps, Holly Olson

**Guests:**
Comet Class Representatives:

Files for this meeting are located on SharePoint: Home

Agenda: Presenter

**Approval of Minutes** — Darin Moeller

Teri Peterson made a motion/Sarah Second

Meeting called to order at 3:04 pm.

Review Charter for 2026-2027 Acad Council Charter & Roster 2026-27 - draft.docx

Sarah Deck motioned to approve the charter and it was seconded by Mellisa Flanigan.

**Updates:**

- Outreach Report — Christina and Tawnya
  - Exploring Careers Day tomorrow
- Faculty Senate Update — Linda Mercer
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- Comet CLASS Update — Comet CLASS
  - We are working with individual departments on the results from the listening sessions hosted last month and will be hosting Dining Service Committee on Friday, November 13th at 10:30 am in the CIE workshop. Also on November 13th, we are hosting a Legacy dinner to reconnect with former student leaders, celebrate their contributions, and share the progress made since the inception of Comet CLASS. We hope to engage them in meaningful conversations about the future of WITCC and explore opportunities to continue partnering with them through mentorship, student advocacy, alumni engagement, and other initiatives that strengthen our college community. If you have any questions or follow up please reach out.
- Dean of Instruction Update — Darin Moeller
  - Legislation and Dept of Ed Status on rule writing
    - General Education
      - House File 2610. Sections 10 and 11 impact community colleges. Defines we have to have a common general education. We basically already do. Requirements and guidelines were created by LACTS committee (with the Regents). There's a committee working with DOE and LACTS and not looking at major changes with general education. Regents were directed to have a Civics requirement for their gen ed curriculum.

Debating on what that should look like (at Regents level) US Govt or US History requirement for graduation. Do not know what that would look like, for sure. This will be implemented at some point. We just don't know when. We are looking at when we should start this.

- § Co-Requisite Remediation
  - Section 11 – there's not a lot there. legislation says it is eliminating development education at the community college level. We removed most from our curriculum several years ago. We do need to do co-requisite remediation. We don't know what that means for us yet. We have a group going to Des Moines on Friday (10/30/26) to review best practices. We don't know how much flexibility we have on this. This should be implemented by 2028-29. We will probably form a committee to decide how it should go.
- § Common Course Numbering
  - In legislation (section 10), outlines that community colleges would have common number, description, and outcomes being taught in a student's education. Unsure if that includes CTE programs. Arts & Science courses will be looked at first. Unsure of format. Faculty groups will be meeting state-wide. Our current common numbering system requires same number and title. There's not much we can do until the rules and processes are decided by the Iowa Department of Education. CAOs listen in on the committees to give feedback to the Department of Education. Expect more information in the spring.

- o Coursedog Implementation – we had been using Curriculog since 2020 – Now we have it all in Coursedog. If you have any questions, please contact Brenda Wright.
  - § Curriculum Processes
  - § Catalog Development

**Course Revisions-Curriculum Committee** (Requires Vote)
Review and Approval of New Course, Major Course Modifications and Deactivations
No vote needed, all courses were FYI only.

**Assessment Committee** (May require vote on specific actions)

- Assessment Academy Update – received temporary approval for the Arts and Sciences handbook. Been talking about what our role is as the Assessment Committee in the program review process. We are piloting a new process. Just starting on the pilot. Will share more as we work through the pilot with the HVAC program review.

**Academic Innovations & Pathways Taskforce**

- Presentation & Survey – Darin Academic Innovation and Pathways Taskforce – Fill out form
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**Program Reviews:** (Requires Vote)

**Handbooks to Review:** (Requires Vote)

**Program Changes:** (Requires Vote)

Mellissa Flanigan made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Sarah Deck. All were in favor and motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 4:08 pm
Next Meeting: November 24, 2026; L304 at 3:00 pm