

Leadership Council on Mission, Planning and Budget
Minutes: September 5, 2025
MLK Jr. University Union
Arcola/Tuscola Room

Voting members present: John Blue, Alexandra Bradley, Steve Brantley, Arlene Brown, Todd Bruns, Gabe Grant, Brian Keith, Amber May, Catherine Polydore, Eric Wahls, Michelle Wayne, Marjorie Worthington

Voting members absent: Jon Coleman, Marisol Gamboa, Reagan Robson, Stacey Ruholl, Callan Wilson

Non-voting members: Jay Gatrell, Mike Hutchinson, Mindy Spencer, Cindy Hutchison, Matt Bierman, Josh Norman, Holly Farley

Non-voting members absent: Anne Flaherty

1. Call to order – Amber May called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm

2. Approval of minutes - Motion to approve February 28, 2025, minutes. T. Bruns moved and B. Keith seconded to approve as written. The motion carried by acclamation.

3. LCMPB Executive Committee Report – None

4. New Business

a. Chair Election

- Amber May

b. Executive Committee Representation Selection

- At-Large President's Area: Amber May, Chair
- VPAA & Faculty Senate: Todd Bruns
- VPBA & Facilities: Eric Wahls
- VPAA & Full Time Teaching Faculty: Gabe Grant
- VPSA & Student: Alexandra Bradley

c. Budget Transfer Subcommittee - The following council members volunteered to serve.

- Arlene Brown
- Michelle Wayne
- Marjorie Worthington
- Todd Bruns
- Amber May
- Mike Hutchinson

e. Administrative Reports

- i. President: President Gatrell shared that first time enrollment is up as well as transfers. This is the first increase seen in three years. 1 out of 5 new students had a 4.0 high school GPA.

International enrollment continues to be substantially lower resulting in FTE headcount decline. EIU has a loss of more than \$7M in revenue projected for FY26 when compared to FY24.

- State appropriation is 3%, EIU received 1% with 2% kept by the state and placed in reserve. It is unknown if EIU will receive the remaining 2%.
 - The budget for FY26 will be reduced by another \$475k with a projected deficit of \$2.8M across all ledgers.
 - Academic Reorganization will begin this year to reduce administrative costs and reassign duties to support the instructional mission of units/programs.
 - The university needs to make substantial progress over the next two years towards achieving a goal of 17-1 student/faculty ratio.
 - Proposals from departments are due November 21 and a final presentation to the campus community will be shared in January 2026.
 - The provost search is being placed on hold until the reorganization is completed. Dr. Holly Farley will continue to serve as acting Provost and VP of Academic Affairs.
 - Monday, September 8, 2025, a Voluntary Separation Incentive Program will be announced in the newsletter. This will be offered to eligible employees; primarily faculty, ASP's and administrative/professional's.
- ii. Vice President for Academic Affairs: Dr. Holly Farley reported the VPAA budget has been finalized and reductions made.
- Strategies like the Navigate 360 platform are being utilized to increase retention.
 - A select number of hyflex courses will run in the spring semester while CAA determines the process moving forward to implement the new modality.
 - B.S. in Social Work was approved, and students can be admitted Fall 2026.
- iii. Vice President for Business Affairs: VP Bierman shared that for FY26 with factoring in the 1% increase from the state, EIU is budgeting \$1.9M deficit for Ledger 1.
- Human Resource Department continues to develop their new team members. Special thanks were given to Andrea Murphy, Amie Calvert, and Fantasy Sharrett for their leadership.
 - The sale of East Hall to the Sigma Chi Fraternity has been finalized.
 - FY25 books have been closed with a deficit spent of \$453,000 in Ledger 1.
 - Significant changes have been made over the last year to the Student Accounts area: no longer sending paper bills unless necessary; no longer charging finance charges beyond 12 months after a student's last term; after 1 year of no contact with former students they will be sent to collections. Settlements were offered to over 4,600 students with past due balances.
 - ITS contracted with Cisco and Presideo to replace networking switches and equipment. This is a \$2.7M project that will be financed through Cisco. Implementation begins this fall.
 - Rumpke trash service replaced Waste Management as our trash vendor.
 - An EIU email address can no longer be used for a personal Amazon account.
 - The fall campus beautification date is set for the week of September 29, 2025.

- The utility tunnel project is going out for bid in the next 90 days and work is expected to begin late fall or early spring between the Renewable Energy Center and campus.
 - Science Building is moving forward with a potential bid time of late calendar year 2025 or early 2026.
 - Parking lot work for this year is completed as well as basketball and pickleball courts.
 - Facilities, Planning and Management are working with Housing & Dining to begin the design process of remodeling Thomas Hall.
- iv. Vice President for Student Affairs: VP Spencer gave the update for VP Flaherty who was attending the police officer cadet graduation in Belleville with Chief Gamboa.
- VPSA made 3% cuts to appropriated funds
 - 2 open positions were cut as well as 3 additional open positions that will not be filled at this time.
 - Move-in and Welcome Weekend went well with nearly perfect weather. Pantherpalooza Student Involvement Fair was moved from the second week of classes to move-in weekend and was better attended.
 - 650 individuals came out for First Day of Class photos on the library quad including many staff from across campus.
 - Housing numbers appear to be down by about 15 residents from last year's total of 1850. This was largely impacted by the reduction in international students.
 - The second annual EIU Squared Block Party will be on Saturday, September 6. This is a family friendly event.
- v. Vice President for University Advancement: VP Spencer reported that Giving Day was April 22 and resulted in \$410,487 in total gifts.
- FY25 Giving totaled \$7,754,526.61 compared to \$6,296,270.30 in FY24 and 3503 donors in FY25 compared to 3943 in FY24.
 - Campaign is still in the planning phase with a goal of the silent phase beginning in FY27.
 - Finalizing the search for 2 more fundraisers as well as other needed positions; gift administration and data and prospect management.
 - VPUA team is working with Raisers Edge to input some final updates and fix a few errors found during the conversion.
 - Lauren Bennett will be working to implement training, in person and online.
- vi. Vice President for Enrollment Management: VP Norman reported School of Nursing will have its largest cohort to date with a growth of 38% Fall to Fall. Special Education is nearly double the size of the previous year. Business Administration also nearly doubled since LCBT brought the program fully online and in-person.
- Even with the decline of international enrollment on campus, the diversity of the population increased with 60 countries represented on EIU's campus.
 - Freshman applications are up 11%
 - Transfer applications are up 37%

5. Adjournment: A Brown moved, and M. Worthington seconded to adjourn at 2:59 pm.