

Leadership Council on Mission, Planning and Budget  
Minutes: November 7, 2025  
MLK Jr. University Union  
Arcola/Tuscola Room

Voting members present: John Blue, Steve Brantley, Arlene Brown, Todd Bruns, Gabe Grant, Brian Keith, Amber May, Catherine Polydore, Stacey Ruholl, Eric Wahls, Michelle Wayne, Marjorie Worthington, Claire Weber, Callan Wilson

Voting members absent: Alexandra Bradley, Jon Coleman, Marisol Gamboa

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

Non-voting members absent: None

1. **Call to order** – Amber May called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm
2. **Approval of minutes** - Motion to approve September 5, 2025 minutes. M. Wayne moved and A. Brown seconded to approve as written. The motion carried by acclamation.
3. **LCMPB Executive Committee Report** – None
4. **New Business**

a. Administrative Reports

- i. **President:** President Gatrell shared that 19 employees participated in the VSIP retirement package. Board of Trustees next meeting will take place on November 13. Plans for reorganization are ongoing with 7 plans received to date. A final plan will be presented to campus in January 2026.
- ii. **Vice President for Academic Affairs:** Dr. Holly Farley reported Dr. Michael Gillespie, the Dean of Student Success, hosted a Retention Symposium. Faculty and Staff from across campus met to discuss current programs and new strategies.  
  
McAfee advisors have started discussions to re-envision first year advising with plans to move toward a Hub model. VP Farley also stressed that faculty advising is not going away.  
  
Math placement testing is being reviewed; specifically, ways to address the cost and problem of placement. Ideally, it needs to be completed before orientation and enrollment.
- iii. **Vice President for Business Affairs:** VP Bierman thanked those who have completed their Annual Ethics training and Cyber Security trainings. The deadline was October 31, 2025, but

it was encouraged that anyone who has not completed them to go ahead and do so. VP Bierman shared the following updates:

- Mobile credentials are coming summer 2027 enabling students and employees to use their phone as an ID.
- ITS will begin switching and routing hardware implementation over the next 9 months. There will be ½ day internet outages by building and once a schedule is in place, it will be shared.
- Rumpke trash service will be brought forward at the November Board meeting for approval. Trash and disposal expenses will increase 60% over the previous contract.
- Campus steam outage is tentatively scheduled for November 24 – 26.
- The budget for the Utility Tunnel Project was originally \$23m with the design estimate of \$18m. The lowest bidder was just under \$32m. They are working with CDB to secure additional funding.
- Lights are being installed at the Frost Baseball Field; project to be completed by the end of the semester.

iv. Vice President for Student Affairs: VP Flaherty reported on the ribbon cutting for the new basketball courts in the Student Rec Center and the newly resurfaced basketball courts and pickleball courts east of Lantz. Both are seeing high level of usage. Additional updates shared:

- Homecoming and Family Weekend made for a busy fall. Panther Family Association held an election for their first Exec Board of Officers.
- One of the two Panther Shuttle vehicles now offers Point of Service for students. Details about the shuttle are available on the website at <https://www.eiu.edu/police/shuttleschedule.php>.
- EIU Food Pantry is currently open to students, faculty and staff once per week.
- VSIP's and other unfilled positions will result in over \$550,000 in savings to the university.
- Thomas Hall renovations discussions are underway and scheduled to begin in summer of 2026 with fall 2027 opening.
- The Housing Central Staff are relocating to the Health & Human Services Building and Career Services are moving to the second floor of Blair Hall in June. This will allow for a new RSO space in the location of the existing Housing Office.
- A group of students completed the requirements to request Turning Point USA be a recognized RSO at EIU. Student Government Senators voted not to approve of the organization on November 5, 2025. By doing so, it would have violated EIU's obligation to the First Amendment. The University administration recognized Turning Point USA as an RSO effective November 6, 2025.

v. Vice President for University Advancement: VP Spencer reported that \$2.4m has been raised to date. The Alumni Awards Ceremony was moved to Friday evening of Homecoming and was well attended, as well as the ribbon cutting for Napoleon's bench.

- Development Directors are hired for the fundraising team and are being assigned regions.

- The Academy of Lifelong Learning has been reassigned to the Alumni Association.
- Stewardship project begins this week.
- Advancement training will be offered to deans, associate deans and chairs early January 2026.

vi. Vice President for Enrollment Management: VP Norman reported that the Student Success and Engagement Award is strategically moving to AIM High funding. This will give more flexibility in utilizing waiver dollars to secure our Fall 2026 incoming class. Additional updates shared:

- Artificial Intelligence driven recruitment agent has launched; making calls, sending SMS and generating emails.
- Nearly 6000 FAFSA ISIR records have been received, and work has begun on budgets to ensure we are able to package Financial Aid as soon as possible.
- We have partnered through a state contract with ReUp and they will be engaging students who have stopped out with the hope they will re-engage and re-enroll.
- Applications and admits are up over 25% for first year; deposits are down.

5. Adjournment: C. Polydore moved, and M. Wayne seconded to adjourn at 2:50 pm.