

Associate Deans Council Meeting Minutes of June 24, 2026

Present: Tracey Baham, Steve Bullard, Kayla Carr, Tracy Craven, Jim Dunne, Anastasia Elder, Brent Fountain, Dana Franz, Robert Green, Brien Henry, Logan Link (for C. Jackson), Dominic Lippillo, Bethany Mills, Lynda Moore-White, David Nolen, Alicia Olivier, Sean Owen, Andy Perkins, Jacob Tshume (for M. Priddy), Kevin Rogers, Peter Ryan, Amy Adkerson (for E. Shaw), Courtney Siegert, Deanna Smith, Keegan Figueroa (for A. Spreen), Lisa Stricklin, Jason Tiffin, Shelby Tschume, Cat Walker, Robert West, Lauren Wright, Madeline Demetriou

Dr. Tracey Baham called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

1. Consideration of the Minutes

A motion was made by Dr. Robert Green and seconded by Dr. Kevin Rogers to accept the minutes from April 22, 2026. Council members voted to approve the minutes.

2. Major Maps Site Improvements

Ms. Shelby Tschume thanked the Council and their colleges for their work on the Major Maps website and noted that the site has already begun to receive positive feedback from internal and external audiences. She announced that keyword tagging is now included to improve search results beyond exact text matching. Keywords can be added that include common terms, related interests, and student-friendly terms. Future enhancements are underway for cross-disciplinary career pathway resources. Additionally, a new editor resource page is available with further information for editing, keyword guidance, portal access information, and frequently asked questions. Council members were encouraged to submit ideas for keyword suggestions and additional pathways.

3. Changes to the Academic Common Market Place

Dr. Peter Ryan presented several updates to the Academic Common Market (ACM) program. He reminded members that a moratorium remains in place on adding new programs to the ACM inventory, and he encouraged advisors and recruiters to verify ACM eligibility before discussing the program with prospective students. He shared that several MSU ACM policy changes will take effect for incoming ACM students beginning in Spring 2027, including increasing the minimum high school core GPA requirement from 2.75 to 3.0 and requiring transfer students to maintain a 3.0 GPA in all college coursework. In addition, non-resident tuition waivers will be limited to 10 semesters for four-year ACM programs and 12 semesters for five-year ACM programs, with an appeals process available for extenuating circumstances.

Dr. Ryan also discussed Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) regulations that MSU will begin implementing for new ACM students starting in Fall 2026, while current students will be grandfathered under existing requirements. Under these regulations, students may not pursue a double major unless both majors are ACM-approved programs. He further noted that ACM students may be monitored for excessive absences and could be subject to suspension from the program. Members discussed the importance of communicating these changes clearly to advisors, recruiters, and students to ensure compliance with ACM and SREB requirements.

4. IE Update

Dr. Dana Franz expressed gratitude to the colleges for sending their program coordinators to her IE Committee workshops. She continues to work through the summer and will be available to consult with any other program coordinators on an individual basis. She intends on having another set of workshops in July specifically for department heads and would appreciate it if the associate deans would encourage their department heads to attend.

5. Federal Higher Education Updates

Dr. Tracey Baham provided an overview of several federal higher education policy updates that may influence future policy decisions. She presented changes related to gainful employment regulations, financial value transparency requirements, accreditation reform, transfer credit considerations, and proposed credential pathways. Additionally, she mentioned the potential of a 90-hour bachelor's degree alternative. With the changes happening, Dr. Baham emphasized the growing federal focus on student outcomes and their workforce readiness. She encouraged council members to remain aware of constantly changing federal policies as MSU policies and credentials are being reviewed.

6. Announcements

- Major Maps
 - Please continue to submit any keyword suggestions and major maps site improvement ideas to Ms. Shelby Tschume.
- Registrar's Office
 - The Registrar's Office is updating the list of approved science course substitutions for MS Community College sciences. Distribution of these lists is underway for confirmation and/or edits. In the coming month(s), they will be reaching out to each academic college to schedule a degree audit meeting to discuss and reaffirm the process. Please direct any questions to Registrar Shaw.

Meeting adjourned 2:50 p.m.