

DEAN'S CABINET MINUTES
MAY 11, 2026

*Helena College Mission:
Helena College supports our diverse community by providing the paths and tools necessary to assist learners in achieving their educational and career goals.*

CABINET MEMBERS:

Table 1: Cabinet Members

- **Sandra Bauman**, Dean/CEO
- **Kelley Turner**, Operations
- **Stephanie Hunthausen**, CTE & DE
- **Valerie Curtin**, Exec. Dir. Compliance/FA
- **Jessie Pate**, Dir. IR/Effectiveness
- **Vacant**, CIO
- **Robyn Kiesling**, Exec. Dir. Gen Ed & Trans
- **Sarah Dellwo**, Exec. Dir. Enrollment
- **Abigail Rausch**, Director of Marketing
- **Cari Schwen**, Exec. Director of Fiscal Svc
- **Paige Payne**, Executive Assistant (recorder)

Mastermind Discussion:

Website Updates

- Meetings will be scheduled with stakeholders.

Food Policy Revision (CS)

- Fix the grammar and punctuation in the first paragraph as suggested by the campus.
- Reframe the scope of this policy revision to cover only the kitchen run by Follett and either create a new policy to address personal food preparation and storage or add a section in the SOP for personal food preparation and storage.

Review Council and Committee Memberships

- This is an ongoing conversation.
- Sandy will add a tab on the spreadsheet to identify AY27 committee/council vacancies.
- Check the membership terms for accuracy.
 - Robyn Kiesling will be replaced by Stephanie H. on Budget Council.
 - Sarah Dellwo will replace Abby Rausch on the IDEA Council

Discuss Gardner Sensemaking Initial Meeting Attendance (JP)

- The initial meeting will be in May.
- Stakeholders are enrollment, academics, and student affairs.
- Determine if the first meeting can be scheduled during the Cabinet meeting on May 18 at 8:30 a.m. or on June 2nd. (If the session can be recorded)

Loan Reduction Regulations (VC)

- Only Parent PLUS Loans affect our students.
- Legacy students who do not fall under the new limits are:
 - Those that borrowed any type of Federal student loan prior to July 1, 2026
 - Have not changed their program of study after July 1, 2026.
 - Have not stopped out after July 1, 2026.
 - For Legacy students, PLUS loans remain to have no aggregate limit and are only limited to the difference between the COA and all other financial aid.
 - Students not qualified for Legacy have PLUS loan limits of \$20,000 annually, and \$65,000 aggregate.
- Any student who is attending less than full-time status will have their loans reduced.
 - The only exception is Parent PLUS Loans.
- The institution may choose to have a policy to further adjust for enrollment status decreases after the disbursement date during the term.
- Both the new OB3 proration and the pre-OB3 proration of last semester exist in statutory. No answer from ED yet as to how this will play-out.
- Best guess is that whichever formula calculates the lesser amount will be utilized. This means there will never be more than ½ the annual loan amount for a single semester.

Annual Plans for AY27 (JP)

- Departments find making the annual plans beneficial for planning and setting goals at the department level but feel that the annual plans are not valuable to make informing decisions at the institutional level.
- IDEA is comfortable making recommendations to the Cabinet but would prefer that Cabinet makes the final decisions.
- The six KPIs relate to academics. It is difficult for Facilities to write their goals to academic KPIs.
- The timing when the annual plans begin and end is confusing. June deadline is random and some goals are not done until July and August.
 - Suggestion: start in August and finish in May, then IDEA can use the summer to evaluate the data
 - Align to guiding principles in a narrative and/or to the five institutional priorities set by Cabinet in April.
 - Improve student learning
 - Fiscal decisions and resource allocation