



Business, Marketing and Management, and Office Systems Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: October 14, 2026

External Participants:

Scott Schumacher – Business Education Teacher, DeKalb Highschool
Tiffany Kousoulas – Employee Benefits Specialist, Crum-Halstead Insurance Agency
Jacky Aquilera – Life Coach, The Suter Company
Christine DeVliager – Human Resources Manager, The Suter Company
Annette Keca – Business Education Teacher, Sycamore Highschool
Meghan Pinter – Director of Administration, Nenni & Associates
Margaret Miles – Director, Undergraduate Advising & Student Resources, Northern Illinois University College of Business

Internal Participants:

Dr. Jessica Berek – Interim Associate Vice President of Instruction
Jescelynn Gibbons – Dean
Kristine Adzovic – Associate Dean
Tammy Tiggelaar – Business/Marketing Management Faculty
Pamela Pascolini – Office Systems Faculty
Courtney Walz – Director of Development
Brett Williams – Director of Grants
LaCretia Konan – Associate Vice President of Community Engagement
Julie Griffith - Academic Advisor
Catherine Macias – Administrative Specialist

I. College Updates

A. FY27 College Goals

- i. Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) are being revised to emphasize essential employability skills across all courses.

B. Digital Badges

- i. Digital badges are verified credentials that showcase specific skills, allowing employers to view and verify a candidate's competencies and achievements.
 - 1. The external partners agreed that verified digital badges are a useful way to document skills and competencies
 - 2. Highlighting AI literacy and workplace skills may be most useful in the hiring process.

C. College Updates

- i. Overall college enrollment is down slightly (-1.7%).



KISHWAUKEE COLLEGE

- ii. CTE Open House: October 15, 2026, from 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
- iii. Fundraiser Event: Evening at Kish on November 5, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- iv. Greenhouse Ribbon Cutting: November 5, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- v. Spring Advisory: Joint advisory committee meeting on April 7, 2027, from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

II. Department Updates

A. Fall Semester Updates

- i. Business (BUS) Enrollment: Overall enrollment increased by (32.5%), representing approximately 60 credit hours.
- ii. Marketing and Management (MM) Enrollment: Overall enrollment increased by (26.5%), representing 258 credit hours.
- iii. Office Systems (OS) Enrollment: Overall enrollment decreased by (-22.2%), representing 168 credit hours.
- iv. Curriculum updates
 - 1. BUS – Student Learning Outcomes
 - a. Tiggelaar reviewed curriculum updates aligning course learning outcomes with employability skills and the importance of providing students with opportunities to apply knowledge in real-world situations.
 - b. Tiggelaar noted continued interest in the Leadership Certificate following the transition to the online format.
 - 2. MM – Student Learning Outcomes
 - a. Tiggelaar shared curriculum updates focused on employability skills, noted strong student engagement in real-world project-based learning activities that support goal setting, problem-solving and workplace readiness.
 - 3. OS – NSAW grant; Student Learning Outcomes
 - a. Dr. Berek shared the Non-Credit Strategies Work Grant (NSAW).
 - i. Grant supports the development of flexible, career-focused training and short-term skill-building opportunities outside of traditional degree programs.
 - ii. Williams shared pending grant approval, the college plans to launch an AI Literacy for Business Professionals program tentatively in Spring 2027.

B. Business Club



- i. Tiggelaar reported active student involvement on campus and community events.

III. Partner Updates

A. Hiring/Labor Market Needs

- i. The external partners discussed workplace challenges related to AI adoption, emphasizing the need for AI literacy, data privacy awareness, effective use of AI tools, and strong communication, professionalism, and interpersonal skills as essential workplace competencies.

B. Other Updates

- i. Miles discussed the importance of AI literacy and ethical AI use in preparing students for the workplace.
- ii. Northern Illinois College of Business developed a required one-credit AI course for business majors

C. Open Discussion

- i. Pascolini and Tiggelaar emphasized critical thinking, employability skills, workplace etiquette, and real-world application of learning and encouraged employer feedback on curriculum improvements.