McCausland College Strategic Engagement Committee Meeting Minutes

Academic Year 2026-2027
Date: September 14, 2026
Time: 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Location: Petigru 321

I. Welcome and Introductions

A. Welcome new committee members

1. Dr. Jonathan Edwards, Department of English Language and Literature
2. Dr. Lindsey Hennessee, Department of Biological Sciences

B. Returning committee members

1. Chair- Dr. Lauren Steimer, School of Visual Art and Design
2. Dr. Silvia Atim, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
3. Dr. Cara Delay, Department of Women and Gender Studies
4. Dr. Agnes Mueller, Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures
5. Dr. Adela Vraciu, Department of Mathematics

II. Review committee charge and goals for the academic year

A. Dr. Mylene Culbreath, Vice Dean for Strategy & Engagement

1. Modern Think Project
2. College Faculty/Staff Awards in Spring 2027

III. Modern Think Project Management Plan

A. Built from employee engagement survey administered in 2024-2025

1. Low response rate
2. Focus groups created and issues taken to the Dean
3. 3 priorities and 16 action items were developed
    a. 4 of the 16 action items are specifically for the Dean
    b. Of the 12 others…
        i. 4 have launched initiatives
        ii. 5 are awaiting launch
        iii. A few have been postponed to next year

B. Currently in year 1 of 3 for Modern Think Project

C. Dr. Lauren Steimer will create a database using the spreadsheet detailing the 16 action items for the project to track progress in real time

IV. Annual Awards & Recognition Ceremony

A. Need to create awards, process, etc. for Spring 2027 awards

B. Strategic engagement committee to serve as selection committee for award recipients

C. Awards ceremony will likely take place as a breakfast/brunch in late March or early April

V. New Business

A. Survey to be sent out to faculty/staff with one question from each standing committee

1. "What initiatives would you like to see that would help foster a welcoming and inclusive community within the McCausland College of Arts and Sciences?"
2. Hope to receive results by November meeting so that the committee can sort through and address specific items

VI. Additional initiatives and opportunities for strategic engagement

A. Discussion of surveying faculty and staff who identify as disabled to gather information regarding accessibility pertaining to university policies

1. Determined the committee could provide transparency to all faculty and staff on the chain of command so that faculty and staff may receive the help that they need

VII. Member announcements

A. Discussion of parents who are creating a community around ensuring safe practices for students at social events related to drinks being spiked

1. Determined this was an issue for student affairs

VIII. Topics for future meetings

A. Follow up on the three charge items for the committee

1. Modern Think Project
2. McCausland College of Arts and Sciences Faculty and Staff Awards
3. Faculty and staff survey question responses

IX. Adjournment

A. Meeting was adjourned at 3:37 PM
B. Upcoming Meeting: November 2, 2026, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM, Petigru 321