

MMA/MAPE COM. PLAN Advisory Council Meeting Notes
Friday, November 14, 2008
11 a.m. – 12 Noon
TRF Campus, Room 545; EGF Campus, Room 106; Roseau Site

Members Present: Dave Olsen, , Kirsten Michalke, Susy Dowers, Nicole Hagen, Becky Lindseth, Kent Hanson, Pam Schorsch, Kristi Lane, Anne Temte; Cindy Cedergren, Recorder.
Absent: Karla Anderson, Michelle Benitt

Holiday Week Schedules: Since some departments have inquired about holiday schedules, President Temte thought it was appropriate to remind employees that she will not be releasing on-duty employees early on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve. Supervisors will be encouraged to approve leave during the holiday weeks while still maintaining services to students. Becky stated that MAPE employees have the flexibility to balance their hours within the work week (Wed-Tues).

Strategic Planning: President Temte and Kent Hanson reported on the next steps for strategic planning. On January 7, all employees will participate in a 2-hour "Kick-Off" activity on each campus. President Temte asked Council members how they felt about this planning process. Members stated that everyone is being given the opportunity to offer their input into the plan. The process is creating less of an "us" verses "them" attitude among staff. Input creates ownership for the plan.

How do we keep the plan alive? Maybe we could personalize it by saying "What can I do to help the college reach its goals?" Pam shared the contacts she makes by simply talking to employees at a local convenience store about the college. She suggested carrying viewbooks and catalogs with you to provide them with information instantly.

Round Table Discussions:

Discussion was held regarding the increase in students overall, but students are taking fewer credits. Members noted that many students need to work part-time in order to go to college.

President Temte stated that she, Kent Hanson, and Jim Retka have conducted several "CEO to CEO" business visits over the past month, and are learning a lot about their educational needs, and when they need it. We may need to change our historical pattern of providing the majority of our courses between 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Some members stated they receive inquiries from community members who want short-term skill-based courses. Nicole stated she had received inquiries about welding and auto body courses in Roseau.

Nicole shared information about a \$55,000 grant to explore offering ag related courses in high schools. Roseau may be a site next fall.

Susy Dowers inquired about the status of the New Media program, as well as the development of other new programs. Kent Hanson reported that the application for New Media will be submitted to MnSCU within two weeks. Unfortunately the college does not have sufficient funds to start new programs from scratch. We need to continue to expand and develop current programs with emphasis. Susy stated that if we don't offer training for current and upcoming fields, we likely won't increase enrollment. We need to tap into what companies need for technicians. Kent stated we need to utilize the COI more to avoid a long full-program approval process, in order to deliver just-in-time training. We must re-allocate funds in order to free them up for new programs.

Kirsten reported that the COI winter-spring catalog was just released, and response has been good. She noted she is currently working with Arctic Cat and faculty member Paul Werner to offer a finance class for engineers in January.

Kristi Lane commented on how current employees can often influence their friends to take classes at Northland by demonstrating to them that "if I can do it, so can you".

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 11, 2008; 11 a.m.; TRF Room 545; EGF Room 106; Roseau Site

Cindy Cedergren, Recorder