

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

Members Present: Dave Olsen, Susy Dowers, Nicole Hagen, Kent Hanson, Pam Schorsch, Kristi Lane, Anne Temte; Cindy Cedergren, Recorder.

Absent: Becky Lindseth, Michelle Benitt, Kirsten Michalke

Budget Projections:

President Temte shared a draft document which outlined the assumptions the college is making in response to the state's \$426 million deficit for FY09 and the state's projected deficit of \$4.8 billion for the next biennium. The document also contained guidelines for financial management that will be put in place for the current year, to reduce spending and maximize the carry-forward funds into FY10. She stated there is a possibility that the Governor could decide to "de-fund" state agencies during this fiscal year, reducing our expected allocation funds for the remainder of the year. The college may need to reduce the budget by \$1 million per year over the next two years. She stated that it is not likely the Board of Trustees will approve more than a 2% increase in tuition.

President Temte explained that a process and instrument are being developed for gathering ideas from all employees through an electronic "Idea Forum" on Virtual Office, which will be available in early January. She encouraged Council members to submit their ideas, thoughts, and opinions via this method. The Finance Committee will be involved in reviewing all the ideas submitted. The college needs to look at both large and small reductions. President Temte stated that administration will be preparing for five levels of reduction, depending on the Governor's decisions on "de-funding". We need to have a pretty clear picture of the budget by May 1st.

A member inquired about allowing their employees to attend the Front Line Network Conference in the spring. President Temte stated that perhaps Staff Development funds could be utilized, and encouraged supervisors to use caution in determining how many employees should attend each year. There might need to be a rotation list developed for participation in this annual conference.

A member inquired about the status of the Aviation Director position. President Temte reported that interviews are being conducted now. She stated that if we don't fill the position, the program will not survive; candidates are being informed of the situation. Susy Dowers suggested the college look further into offering continuing education training for aviation professionals – on-site, on week-ends. (This type of training was offered several years ago through Custom Training).

Karla Anderson stated we need to find ways to be more efficient in each of our function areas (resource saving and sharing). Susy Dowers stated we should get students involved in the

budget reduction process – maybe faculty could challenge students to get involved in such things as recycling, energy savings, etc. President Temte relayed a suggestion she had received from an employee, suggesting that students pay credits for participating in athletic teams.

OTHER:

Nicole Hagen reported that she is currently in contact with 20-30 students who are interested in the nursing co-hort in Roseau. She said many students are interested in getting starting in Fall 2009. Kent Hanson agreed we need to develop some strategies to keep that interest alive to ensure success of the program.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 8, 2008; **10 a.m.**; TRF Room 545; EGF Room 106; Roseau Site

Cindy Cedergren, Recorder