



Thief River Falls Community Advisory Committee Minutes

November 10, 2009

Room 735; 11:30 a.m.- 1 p.m.

MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Maryel Anderson, Barb Kalinoski, Rob Lovejoy, Laurie Panek, Ron Ray, Rev. Phil Schmidt, Jodi Torkelson, Murray Turner, Caryl Turnow, Jennifer Field, Ben Anderson, Laine Larson.

NCTC Staff: Anne Temte, Kent Hanson, Norma Konschak, Jim Retka, Dan Klug, Cindy Cedergren.

Committee Members Absent: David Beito, Mike Moore, Wally Sparby, Bill Stock, Sen. LeRoy Stumpf, Mark Johnson, Steve Lillestol, Rep. Dave Olin, Aliza Olson, Skip Swanson, Rick Trontvet, Rocky Ammerman, Jarrod Kalsnes.

Topic	Responsible Party	Discussion/Outcome
1. Welcome & Introductions	Anne Temte	President Temte welcomed new members Ben Anderson, Executive Director of the TRF Chamber of Commerce, and Laine Larson, TRF Supt. of Schools. All members introduced themselves.
2. State of the College: -Challenges	Anne Temte	President Temte reported that in order to balance the FY09 budget, many budget reductions were made at the end of the last fiscal year (fiscal year is July 1-June 30). By doing so, the college was able to <u>not</u> increase tuition rates for this year. In prior years, tuition rates have risen yearly, and since she became President it has been the administration's goal to keep those increases at a minimum, and not place the burden of reduced state funding on the backs of students. The college experienced a 6% growth in enrollment this fall (6% for full-year equivalent student). The Governor decided that an unallotment of funds to MnSCU was necessary to balance the state's budget, which amounted to a reduction of \$50 million to the MnSCU system, and a \$1 million reduction in MnSCU's allocation to Northland College. Another unallotment may occur before the end of this fiscal year and colleges are being told to prepare for a range anywhere from 7.5% to a 14% reduction in state allocation for fiscal year

<p>Opportunities</p>	<p>2010-11. The college has reserves to use for emergency situations, and does not want to use reserves for general operating expense.</p> <p>To comply with the faculty contract, decisions to suspend some programs and issue lay-off notices to faculty in those programs had to be made by November 1st, and are effective at the end of the academic year (May 15). The college has a program sustainability process which provides a data-based analysis of programs that need to be examined for viability. The process uses several factors in determining the success of the program. She reported that the Cosmetology and Administrative Support programs at the TRF Campus will be suspended next year. Administrative Support is also offered at the EGF Campus, and many courses are offered on-line. A total of five full-time faculty were issued lay-off notices (between the two campuses), based on their college-wide seniority. Eligible faculty were also offered early retirement incentives, in lieu of lay-off.</p> <p>President Temte stated that the college needs to focus on developing new programs that would provide higher paying wages for our graduates.</p> <p>Stimulus funds from the federal government have assisted the college this fiscal year, providing funding for special projects and positions that will move the college forward in reaching strategic plan goals and objectives. President Temte reviewed the projects that were being funded from stimulus funds this year. She stated that all college employees were given the opportunity to submit their ideas on how to spend the \$630,000 in one-time funds for FY10.</p> <p>The college is seeking other federal and state grants for various purposes to supplement the dwindling state allocations and to develop new and enhance current programs. President Temte stated we need to grow our own workforce – develop our people here. The college receives confirmation from businesses such as Merit Care and Altru Hospitals that they could not survive without the trained healthcare workforce the college provides in TRF and EGF.</p> <p>President Temte and Jim Retka, Dean of Economic and Workforce Development, reviewed the progress in the development of a new program to train technicians to maintain and repair unmanned aerial vehicles. The college is working closely with state and federal government, officials from MnSCU, Grand Forks Air Force Base, and</p>
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		<p>University of North Dakota, and UAV manufacturers in the development stage. This program has high potential, but will take a lot of work and external funding to develop. Jim stated that the operation of a UAV consists of 28% of the employees flying the aircraft, and 72% of the employees working behind the scenes. The college is having discussions with city officials in TRF about future improvements to the airport runway that will be required for the UAV training.</p> <p>Maryl Anderson spoke of the visioning process the City is going through now, and their efforts to make TRF a more livable place – we need to continue to ask the legislature for funding in order to make things happen. There are plenty of opportunities for the community, including college employees, to get involved in the visioning process.</p> <p>The college continues to work with regional high schools and there are some exciting grant opportunities for partnerships with high schools. Jennifer Field, NCTC-TRF Student Senate President, stated that the local high school does not typically advise students to attend Northland. Murray Turner stated that out of the (29) high schools he works with, only ten of those high schools have counselors on staff. President Temte stated that the college needs to look at the 50% of high school students who choose not to go attend any college - but would rather stay in the area to work. They need a career road map.</p> <p>President Temte stated that many colleges in the system have an easier time in recruiting students, because of their locations, what the communities offer, etc. Phil Schmidt stated he believed there continues to be a public perception that a two-year college is considered to be of lower quality, compared to four-year colleges. This is an on-going problem.</p> <p>Barb Kalinoski stated that a large number of local high school students take NCTC courses through the Post Secondary Enrollment Options or College in the High School programs, sometimes earning enough credits to move into their junior year in a four-year college, upon graduation from high school.</p>
3. Strategic Plan Update	Anne Temte	<p>President Temte stated that the college's Strategic Plan is alive and employees are working hard to develop goals and strategies to keep the plan moving. She thanked the efforts of the advisory committee members for their part in shaping and creating the plan, which resulted in three top priorities: 1) Inspire Student Success;</p>

		<p>2) Cultivate High Quality Programs, Services, and Employees; and 3) Revolutionize Growth Strategies to Sustain Vibrant Learning Communities.</p> <p>She stated that college committees have been assigned to specific elements of the plan and will be held accountable in achieving the goals set forth in the plan. The college will strive to develop short-term certificates (stackable certificates), that will be spin-offs from existing technical programs, such as Automotive, Aviation, etc.</p>
4. Programming Updates	Kent Hanson	<p>Kent reviewed a proposed list of new diploma, AAS, and certificate programs that the college is considering developing over the next two years. Norma Konschak reviewed the plans to develop an AS degree in Education. She is working with other universities on articulation agreements, and NCTC may be able to offer this degree by developing only two new courses.</p> <p>Murray Turner provided a student success story of an individual who graduated from the aviation program and is now in a high-paying occupation in the wind turbine industry.</p> <p>Laurie Panek stated that shorter/stackable certificates are desired for those seeking retraining. Phil Schmidt asked if the new program ideas were derived from industry requests. Kent Hanson stated that many of them were, while others were derived from labor market information. Laurie Panek stated that the majority of the programs that are being considered for NCTC are in high demand.</p> <p>Discussion was held on on-line program offerings. Kent Hanson stated that the on-line courses have the best fill rates, despite the fact that students pay \$50 more per credit for on-line courses. He stated there 240 high school students taking on-line courses through NCTC. Ron Ray stated that there are still transferability issues – more collaboration between colleges is needed. Rob Lovejoy stated that in the future he foresees an increase in health care employees working from home. He believed the college should strategically plan to support on-line offerings.</p>

4. Progress Toward Student Success	Jason Pangiarella	<p>Jason Pangiarella, the TRF Campus' Success Coordinator, provided an informative summary of how the college enhances student success rates, which sparked a lot of discussion and conversation among the committee. Through special grant funding from MnSCU called "Access and Opportunity", he and his counter-part in EGF work directly with students who fall into one of the following categories: low income, first generation (meaning first in their immediate family to pursue a college education), and students of color, all of which make up a large percentage of our students. It is a team effort in working with these students to ensure their success in completing a program or degree. Retention is a very important part of MnSCU's and Northland's strategic plans, and the college is measured on its ability to retain students until completion.</p> <p>The Success Coordinators and other team members use unconventional methods to seek out these students, (intrusive advising) working on building relationships to help them feel good about themselves and to show them that someone cares whether or not they are succeeding in college. The college strives to offer opportunities for students to get involved in various college and community activities. Phil Schmidt asked if this program was a pilot project. President Temte stated that the Access and Opportunity grant funds may not continue indefinitely, but MnSCU is impressed with the college's progress in meeting the goals set by MnSCU.</p> <p>Rob Lovejoy praised the college for offering this service to students and endorsed the idea of engaging these students and in turn, developing their life skills. Several other members of the committee commented on the value of this program in retaining students and ensuring their success in completing their educational goals.</p>
7. Swenson House Update	Temte	Due to time constraints, this topic was not covered at the meeting, but an update will be sent to all members with the meeting minutes.
8. Meeting Adjourned at 1:15 p.m.		
9. Next Meeting		Tentative: March or April, 2010.