



Thief River Falls Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 22, 2013

11:30 a.m.

TRF Campus #735

Members Present: Cody Hempel, Barbara Jauquet-Kalinowski, Larry Kruse, Mike Moore, Skip Swanson, Rick Trontvet, Murray Turner, Laine Larson, Rocky Ammerman, Steve Crittenden, Lars Dyrud, Gene Klinker, Becky Lindseth, Jim Retka, Anne Temte, Curtis Zoller, Shannon Jesme.

Members Absent: Laura Anderson, Maryel Anderson, David Beito, Dan Fabian, Tom Koppenhaver, Colleen Kukowski, Steve Lillestol, Aliza Olson, Faith Rud, Wally Sparby, LeRoy Stumpf, Carolyn Toupin, Ryan Walseth, Patrick Thibert, Jon Bushy, Bill Stock.

Recorder: Anne Temte (in the absence of Cindy Cedergren)

Topic	Reporter/Discussion Leader	Discussion/Outcome
1) Welcome and Introductions	Anne Temte, President	
2) Updates from NCTC administration: a) Enrollment and Admissions	Rocky Ammerman, Registrar, and Gene Klinker, Director of Admissions and Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Rocky Ammerman and Gene Klinker reported that the number of applications for next year is up substantially. Gene attributed this increase to the Minnesota college application week in November. This is a time when Minnesota high school students can apply for college without an application fee. During Minn. college application week our numbers have gone from 50 applicants two years ago to 194 this year.Rocky reported that college enrollment peaked in FY2009, following the recession. This year we have grown 4% over last year – this contrasts with a national enrollment decline of 3% in community and technical colleges.
b) Aerospace Program Growth	Curtis Zoller, Assoc. Dean of Aerospace Programs, and Jim Retka, Dean of Workforce and Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Curtis Zoller briefly described the Aviation Maintenance Technology, Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Maintenance, and Imagery Analysis programs; he reported on enrollment (close to 100 this year with about 150 expected for next year).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curtis and Jim also discussed the facility that will be a subject of a capital bonding bill next year.
c) Strategic Enrollment Plan	Dan Klug, Chief Development Officer, and NCTC Foundation Executive Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dan Klug described the Noel Levitz consultation last year and the work of the Strategic Enrollment Management team this year. He informed the group of the awards that the Marketing team had won at the recent National Council for Marketing and Public Relations conference. Several committee members commented on the positive image of the college.
d) NCTC Foundation	Dan Klug	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dan Klug reported on the work of the NCTC Foundation – particularly its success with the PSEO scholarship program for Lincoln High School students planning to attend NCTC. The Foundation has awarded more than \$150,000 in scholarships annually in recent years. The Foundation will host the Hangar Dinner and Dance on June 13. He also announced the establishment of the Northland Aerospace Foundation.
e) Quality Initiative-Higher Learning Commission Accreditation	Anne Temte	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anne Temte described the HLC Accreditation process and that new procedures require colleges to identify a “Pathways” project. Northland’s project is focused on improving retention and completion rates – boosting student success. All aspects of the college, including faculty, support staff, and student organizations can contribute in assisting students in clarifying their goals and being more successful.
f) Swenson House	Becky Lindseth, Executive Director of Administrative Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Becky Lindseth briefly updated the group on the college’s progress in marketing the Swenson House.
3) Challenges:		
a) Budget	Shannon Jesme, Director of Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shannon Jesme briefly described the financial challenges that the college continues to face. However, Northland has done a very good job of increasing its Composite Financial Index which is a measure of institutional sustainability required by both the Higher Learning Commission and the MnSCU System.

b) Student Housing	Steve Crittenden, TRF Campus Dean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This topic dominated discussion of the committee. Steve presented the difficulties students have faced in finding suitable housing in the Thief River Falls area. He reported that last fall, more than 40 students who had intended to enroll at NCTC-TRF left because they could not find housing. These students typically are in the Athletics or Aerospace programs, where students are drawn from a longer distance. Rick Trontvet also related the difficulty Digi-Key has in assisting new employees to find housing in TRF. • The committee suggested forming an action team to communicate with the community to urge acceptance of housing development in the city. • NCTC will be working to attract a developer to build student-oriented housing on TRF campus land.
c) New Program Development	Anne Temte Jim Retka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jim Retka discussed the process that is being developed to insure that new program ideas are fully vetted regarding their affordability and sustainability. It is difficult to consider adding new programs during this time when state budget allocations are so constrained and MnSCU colleges are limited in how much tuition rates can be increased. • Additionally, until the housing situation can be improved in TRF, new programs probably cannot be added.
Next Meeting Date		To be scheduled in Fall Semester 2013.