

# PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL

**Wednesday, July 8, 2020**

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: **Zoom**

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## MINUTES

**Present:** Dennis Bona, Mary Fontes, Mike Curfman, Brian Huschle, Shannon Jesme, Jodi Stauss-Stassen, Curtis Zoller, Jim Retka, Lars Dyrud, Stacey Hron (guest for item #1), and Julie Fenning (recorder).  
**Absent:** Chad Sperling

### 1. Website Development / Server Maintenance – Bona/Jesme/Hron

- a. **Web Site Server** – Stacey Hron, director of technology, attended the meeting to discuss the status of the current web site server. It is outdated and extremely unstable. The server has crashed several times, with each time a restart has fixed the situation. That is not guaranteed to work. We could find our entire website down. We are ready to write the RFP for the development of the new web site. **ACTION:** Julie will schedule a meeting with Chad, Stacey, and the Exec team as soon as possible. **UPDATE:** This meeting was scheduled for Monday, July 13, 2020.

### 2. President's Report

- a. **Coronavirus Update** – Dr. Bona received a request from a Challenger Elementary contact for classroom space for their 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes. They were looking for space for 6 classrooms for 20 people for a full day. They would also need restrooms. **ACTION:** It was determined that Northland did not have the space to accommodate this request. Dr. Bona will communicate that to Challenger Elementary.
- b. **President Pierce of MCTC** spoke to Minnesota Congress regarding the effects of COVID-19 on community colleges. She discussed the need for another round of CARE Act funding at a greater extent.
- c. **Athletics** – There are no sports offered this fall with the exception of clay target. Clay target is a sport that is already a virtual, individual sport. The idea for a January start for basketball is being discussed. The Minnesota State presidents are optimistic about spring baseball and softball. Student housing has been impacted by athletes rethinking attending Northland due to no spring athletics. There are currently over 70 students in the Foundation housing. Jim is requesting clarification on the requirement to attend fall semester to in order to play in spring semester. Jim did receive clarification that it does not cost the student a year of eligibility when they attend a college where athletics is not offered.

### 2. Action Items

- a. **Fall Athletics and Expense** – Brian shared that by not offering athletics this fall, there are staffing/schedule changes that will need to be made, building hours adjusted, as well as funding needing to be adjusted within the college. More discussion is needed.
- b. **Fall Fitness Center Use Related to Athletics** – Discussion was held regarding the use of facilities during fall semester. It was determined that the fitness centers would be used for academic purposes only, with safety and social distancing protocols in place. The fitness centers will be closed to all others until it is determined to be safe to reopen. There have



been conversations regarding the MCAC Conference and Minnesota State making a decision about fitness centers, weight rooms, and gyms. Guidance should be coming soon. It was agreed that coaches could meet with students in classrooms, following established social distancing protocols. No contact or practices may be held. **ACTION:** Jim will seek clarification on rules.

- c. **Mask Policy Exception Form** – Mike is developing a form for employees to request a mask exception due to personal health reasons. No documentation will be required. He shared that there are discussions at Minnesota State regarding consistency on rules and procedures for employee and student screening. The system office is working to develop an app to better track screening.
- d. **DOD Grant Opportunity** (attachment) – Curtis shared a grant opportunity from the Department of Defense. Partners included NDSU, UND, EDC in Fargo/Moorhead, Defensive Alliance, and Grand Sky. Northland will serve as the workforce development partner as it relates to technician training, leaning heavily on NCAT. Northland would receive \$30,000 per year, to support initiatives. Deadline for the proposal is July 13<sup>th</sup>. Northland needs to provide a letter of support to participate. **ACTION:** Curtis will draft letter support for Dr. Bona. Approved.

### 3. Discussion Items

- a. **GEER Grant** – Brian shared information about a grant opportunity for funding technologies for remote learning. The proposal is due July 17<sup>th</sup>. **ACTION:** Brian will research details regarding the grant and submit a Letter of Intent. Mary, Dennis, and Brian will meet to discuss ideas.
- b. **SUCCESS Grant Opportunity MDRC** – The system office has contracted with a vendor to help improve retention efforts. Multiple Measures is part of this initiative. It is a huge commitment on the part of the college. The deadline for the proposal is the end of July. **ACTION:** Brian is looking into the details.
- c. **System Office Updates** – Ron Anderson, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, will be scheduling small group meetings with a small number of colleges at a time. His goal is to hear what we are doing regarding COVID mitigation in academics. More information to come.
- d. **Student Services Enrollment Management Work Group** – Nicki Carlson and Chad are a participating in training to put together a strategic enrollment management plan. There will be significant changes to Title IV and sexual assault investigation procedures.
- e. **Fall In-Service** – Brian is working with division chairs to brainstorm ideas for professional development activities. Would like to do something with social unrest. We will be using Zoom town hall format with all employees participating. The presentation will include employee recognition. We are also looking at reducing the length of the in-service.
- f. **Signage for Offices** – Julie shared that employees are creating signs for their offices. **ACTION:** Marketing will create consistent, branded signage for offices regarding the mask requirement and social distancing reminders.
- g. **Visitors** – Closing all entrances to the public besides the front entrances. Fall semester will reopen all entrances.
- a. **Budget Discussions** – With the significant decrease in enrollment, discussions need to be held in the near future. We are currently down -17% college wide. We are down more significantly in TRF than in EGF. Online enrollment is flat.
- h. **Face Shields** – Other institutions are using face shields in health programs. **ACTION:** Jodi will research and make a recommendation.



- i. **Staff Returning to Campus** – Staff are phasing back to campus beginning Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, will everyone back to full-time on campus by August 3<sup>rd</sup>, except for any COVID exceptions. These will be managed through the HR department.

**4. Informational Items**

**5. Individual Updates** (limited to two minutes) No additional updates were given.

- a. Shannon Jesme
- b. Lars Dyrud
- c. Mary Fontes
- d. Chad Sperling
- e. Jodi Stauss-Stassen
- f. Mike Curfman
- g. Cutis Zoller
- h. Jim Retka
- i. Becky Lindseth
- j. Brian Huschle

**6. Adjournment 11:25 A.M.**

