



## Thief River Falls Community Advisory Committee Minutes January 18, 2008

Room 735  
11:30 a.m.

### MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Maryel Anderson, David Beito, Mark Johnson, Steve Lillestol, Stacy Myhrer, Rep. Dave Olin, Aliza Olson, Laurie Panek, Ron Ray, Rev. Phil Schmidt, Skip Swanson, Jodi Torkelson, Rick Trontvet, Murray Turner, Caryl Turnow.  
NCTC Staff: Anne Temte, Kent Hanson, Norma Konschak, Jeff Thomas, Jim Retka, Rocky Ammerman, Cindy Cedergren.

Committee Members Absent: Barb Kalinoski, Rob Lovejoy, Mike Moore, Alyssa Novak, Wally Sparby, Bill Stock, Sen. LeRoy Stumpf.

Topic	Responsible Party	Discussion/Outcome
1. Welcome & Introductions	Anne Temte	President Temte welcomed and thanked all members for agreeing to serve on this community advisory committee, and self-introductions were made. She thanked and bid farewell to Dr. Jeff Thomas, Dean of Academic Affairs, who has resigned and taken a position at Miami-Dade Community College in Homstead, Florida. Dr. Thomas expressed appreciation to the community members whom he had worked with over the past three years.
2. Overall Outlook & Challenges	Anne Temte	President Temte reviewed the materials distributed to members. She summarized a powerpoint presentation entitled "Positioning NCTC for the Future", which was presented to all NCTC employees, in addition to a few local civic organizations this fall. She reviewed the breakdown of revenue and expense in the college's operating budget and summarized the allocation framework which MnSCU uses to fund colleges within the system. She stated the college is limited to increasing tuition next year by only 2% (per MnSCU Board action).
3. Emerging Opportunities	Anne Temte Mark Johnson	President Temte stressed the importance of creating and maintaining college ties with business and industry. Partnerships, such as those in place with Digi-Key

		<p>Corporation, among many others, are extremely important to the growth and success of the college's programs. In turn, the college has become a tremendous asset to regional business and industry – it's a win-win situation for the business and the college. Interim Director of Marketing, Mark Johnson, reviewed plans to create a new media program he is developing – utilizing the most up-to-date technology methods for web development, video and audio productions, digital photography, graphic design, etc. This is a program that many local businesses may benefit from to enhance their employees' skills and reduce the out-sourcing of those types of services.</p>
4. Aviation Program Status	Anne Temte Jim Retka	<p>President Temte and Interim Director, Jim Retka, stated that the program suspension is still in place. However, the college has recently accepted a proposal for consulting services to provide a complete and unbiased assessment of the program, make recommendations to improve enrollment in the program, and provide cost estimates to make the recommended changes. Jim and Anne stated we need to re-invent or re-invigorate the program. The college will seek financial assistance from the Office of the Chancellor because the current college budget cannot accommodate any major costs associated with the re-start of this program. They stated that community members will be provided an opportunity to meet with the consultant in March or April in a community forum setting. Jim reported on a potential contract with UND Aerospace that could be a tremendous boost to the program, if awarded. Jim stated the college is FAA-certified to enroll 150 students. Current enrollment in the program is 25, which includes nine first-year students.</p>
5. What Does TRF and the surrounding community need/want from the college?	Members	<p>President Temte invited all members to share their thoughts and ideas about the college. Stacy Myhrer stated the new media program being developed is needed in the community. Steve Lillestol stated that the college serves as a "bridge" for our youth, especially for those who are pursuing a 4-year degree, and also a "bridge" for business and industry's educational and employment needs. Dave Olin reported on the petition that hundreds of people have signed to keep the aviation program open. Kent Hanson stated we need business and industry to keep telling us what they need. He considers the mission of the campuses' Community Advisory Committees as being "Champions for the College". Rick Trontvet reported on the need for continuing to provide scholarships to students. He reported the NCTC Foundation continues to build their donor program. The cost of tuition must be controlled. Murray Turner stated that, unfortunately, 85% of the jobs in northwestern Minnesota only require a high school education or less; declining enrollments in the high schools continue to create a challenge for the college's growth. Ron Ray stated Arctic Cat continues to need the non-traditional/custom training model of teaching. Students/employees need</p>

		<p>to learn “thinking” skills, problem solving, etc. Phil Schmidt stated that some of our youth do not want to leave town following graduation, maybe they’re not ready to jump into a 4-year college setting, or they may not be sure of what they want to do. Northland is an excellent place to start their education on a smaller scale. Jeff Thomas stated that the college has a good working relationship with the local TRF Arts Council and other fine arts groups and the college needs to continue and enhance those relationships. Maryel Anderson agreed that the college is the primary provider for fine arts and music for the community. Anne Temte stated she would like to see the number of cultural events increased, and that a number of community members have expressed an interest in supporting the college in developing and planning events. Some members stated there is a need for more “just for fun” classes in the community. Phil Schmidt stated maybe there’s an opportunity to form a partnership with Community Education to provide more offerings.</p>
6. Long-Range Strategic Planning	Anne Temte	<p>President Temte stated that this committee would be asked to participate in planning sessions to help create and clarify the college’s long-range plan at the next two meetings, tentatively scheduled for May 14th and September 30<sup>th</sup>.</p>
7. Next meeting		<p>Wednesday, May 14, 2008; 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Swenson House, 1020 Centennial Drive, Thief River Falls.</p>