



Thief River Falls Community Advisory Committee Minutes

August 16, 2010; NCTC Room 735; 12 p.m.

MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Barb Kalinoski, Mike Moore, Laurie Panek, Steve Lillestol, Jodi Torkelson, Murray Turner, Laine Larson, Skip Swanson, Deb Wittenberg (for Rick Trontvet)

NCTC Staff: Anne Temte, Norma Konschak, Jim Retka, Dan Klug, Cindy Cedergren, Rocky Ammerman, Jason Trainer

Committee Members Absent: Maryel Anderson, David Beito, Rob Lovejoy, Wally Sparby, Bill Stock, Sen. LeRoy Stumpf, Mark Johnson, Rep. Dave Olin, Aliza Olson, Rick Trontvet, Jarrod Kalsnes, Caryl Turnow, Ben Anderson, Houston Kirkeide

Topic	Responsible Party	Discussion/Outcome
1. Introductions	Temte	President Temte introduced Jason Trainer, the college's new Marketing and Communications Director. Self-introductions were made for Jason's benefit, as well as for Deb Wittenberg, who attended as a guest, substituting for Rick Trontvet.
2. President's Update	Temte	President Temte shared an update she is distributing to employees this week, which covered several aspects of the college and changes that occurred over the summer months. (Update is attached to the minutes). She added that, unlike many other MnSCU colleges, Northland was able to keep this year's tuition rates to a 3.5% increase. Fall enrollment appears to be record-breaking with a 3,612 headcount college-wide.
3. Issues facing NCTC-TRF in the Fy11-12 biennium	NCTC Administrators	An analysis of TRF technical programs was shared and reviewed. Norma Konschak explained the program criteria used to determine the sustainability of a program, using several factors and data to analyze trends over a period of years. President Temte reported that MnSCU is preparing for a reduction in revenue of 15% over the next two years, which equates to a 7.5% per year reduction for NCTC in state allocation, or approximately \$1,500,000. She noted that the Criminal Justice and Aviation programs

were included in the analysis, however, no reductions are being considered at this time since their growth is evident. Jim Retka noted that aviation currently has 35 new students starting in fall, and 20 returning. One member asked how many of these programs are duplicated in EGF; Construction Electricity, Automotive Service, and Welding are offered at both campuses. One member asked about the status of the Roseau site. Administration stated a nursing cohort is serving 30 students; other offerings have minimal participation. President Temte stated that the Mahnomen site will close at the end of this academic year, by mutual agreement with the White Earth Tribal and Community College. It has been a very successful program, but the training and employment needs for nurses have been fulfilled in that area.

President Temte stated that some employees were offered early retirement incentives last year, and more will be offered this year. Administration will meet with faculty in the low-enrollment technical programs this week to discuss changes to programs that might improve their enrollments. Program advisory committees will also have opportunities for input for new ideas to enhance enrollments and reduce program costs.

President Temte reported that the Cosmetology program remains under suspension (programs can be suspended for up to 3 years without officially closing), and current students will finish the program in December 2010. A task group made up of local salon owners and NCTC administration and faculty has been meeting over the past several months to discuss ideas and options. President Temte stated that the rules of the State Board of Cosmetology and the MSCF faculty contract attribute to the sustainability of the program. Laurie Panek noted that wages for cosmetologists in this area are not substantial enough to take a person off public assistance.

President Temte and Jim Retka explained the opportunities related to the Unmanned Aerial Systems program and other potential programs that may be created that would complement that program. A portion of the UAS program is scheduled to be piloted in Spring 2011.

Jason Trainer reviewed the college's plans to market to traditional (age 18-22) and non-traditional (23 yrs+) students. He noted that the region's population base continues to decline, so the college must rely heavily on attracting students from outside the area.

President Temte quoted some major reductions being made in other MnSCU colleges throughout the state. Barb Kalinoski stated that the community needs to understand the budget and the tremendous impact that the state's budget deficit has on the college. Murray Turner stated that in the media, emphasis is placed on 4-year college degrees, versus two-year degrees.

President Temte and Jim Retka reported they are both working with groups on the Impact 2020 initiative; Jim is working with Lincoln High School.

Dan Klug noted that the NCTC Foundation is discussing scholarships for high school students who are currently earning credits through the Post Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) programs, in an effort to retain those students after graduation from Lincoln or other area high schools. We want to keep students in the community. It was noted that a higher percentage of students (65-70% throughout NW Minnesota) currently don't go to college at all.

President Temte noted that the Liberal Arts program is doing well on both campuses. Jason Trainer stated that many salaries don't offset the cost to obtain the degree required for certain occupations. We need to grow new programs that lead to higher salaries.

Jodi Torkelson stated she was told there are transferability issues in some programs. Discussion followed and members were asked to inquire further when hearing from a student who has had transfer issues, to contact our Registrar's office with specifics to see if they can be resolved appropriately, and so that prospective students don't assume that all programs have transfer issues. Norma Korschak stated the college strives to work with all other higher education institutions in establishing articulation agreements to alleviate transfer problems wherever possible. Jason Trainer stated that the college will promote students taking their "generals" first at NCTC before going on to a 4-year college. Norma Korschak reported on the continued growth in on-line course enrollment.

Dan Klug noted that some local public opinions expressed this spring stated that the college should spend down their reserves in order to keep all the existing programs. President Temte stated that the college currently has 10% in budget reserves (which

		<p>equates to approximately \$3 million); MnSCU requires 15% reserves to cover the college's operational expenses for up to three months.</p> <p>The public needs to understand that reductions within the college are necessary to grow in other areas of the college. Mike Moore stated that many high schools are lacking technical courses, and asked if the college foresees a change in technical programs versus liberal arts.</p> <p>Steve Lillestol suggested that NCTC and Lincoln High School coordinate evening parent information meetings to discuss transfer issues, and any other questions parents may have about the college offerings and services. This could maybe be done in conjunction with parent-teacher conference nights and would primarily attract juniors' or seniors' parents.</p>
4. Swenson House Update	Temte	<p>President Temte reported the college is waiting for the results from two appraisals, and stated there are a couple of developers who have expressed possible interest in converting the property to apartments, but no proposals are being requested until the appraisals are done. MnSCU has a specific process that must be followed to sell or lease state properties.</p>
8. Meeting Adjourned at 1:55 p.m.		
9. Next Meeting		<p>Committee will be polled for a potential meeting during the week of Nov. 1st.</p>