Student Success Day is Tuesday!

Student Success is almost here! Get ready for...“It’s a Jungle Out There!” is the theme. Students will have access to 27 different short sessions on becoming more successful; opportunities to meet with faculty one-on-one; special program activities; plus food, give aways and raffles for two remote control Hummers (proper jungle vehicles!).

A full schedule of Student Success Day sessions and schedule is attached to this week’s Crossings. Please join the planning committee in making this day a valuable one for our students!

Congratulations, Jean Marconett!

Congratulations to our very own Jean Marconett, who was honored on Tuesday, February 8, 2005 at the 19th annual Minnesota National Girls and Women in Sports Day at the State Capital Rotunda. Jean was presented with a Breaking Barriers Award, which honors individuals and organizations which have broken barriers, overcome challenges or made a significant contribution to girls' sports in their respective communities.

National Girls and Women in Sports Day was created in 1987 by the Women’s Sports Foundation to remember and honor Flo Hyman, an Olympic volleyball player. The day has grown into an event to celebrate and commemorate all girls and women who participate in sports, to encourage participation, and to celebrate sports leaders. Since 1987, the President of the United States, every state in the nation and hundreds of other organizations has joined in this annual celebration.

Valentine Flower Sale

Monday Feb. 14 from 2 to 4pm at the Horticulture Tech Center at Heintz Center. Great prices! Creative designs styles! Best deals in Rochester.
Marketing Fact
This spring, RCTC offered 2,360 course sections with a total of 58,356 seats available. 44,743 (77%) of those seats were filled. The average class size for regular sections was 20. (MnSCU ITS Management Reports 2/4/2005).

Upcoming Event
Friday and Saturday February 18 and 19 at 7:00pm Rochester Reads together with RCTC Theatre presents: "The Giver" (adapted from the book by Lois Lowrie). No admission, free will donation to Rochester Reads will be greatly appreciated.
NOTE: After the Saturday performance, there will be an RCTC panel discussion in Hill Theatre immediately following the show.

Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society
Membership Application Deadline:
Friday, February 25
Spring Induction Ceremony
Honoring New Members:
Tuesday, March 22nd
7-8:30 pm/South Room
See Barb Mollberg/Sue Solberg PH400 for membership application and information

Condolences
Condolences are extended to Michelle Pyfferoen whose brother-in-law, Michael Pyfferoen, was killed in an accident on Friday, February 4. Our thoughts are with Michelle and her family.

It is with sorrow that we announce the passing away of Shirley Mercer (wife of Robert Mercer - retired RCC General Maintenance Worker from 1969-1996). Mrs. Mercer was 67 years old. Our thoughts are with Bob and his family.
Supalla’s Scribblings

In his budget proposal, Governor Pawlenty recommended an increase of $107.5 million for Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. The system very much appreciates the recommendation for new funding, especially in light of the $191.5 million MnSCU took in the base budget for the current biennium and the projected $1.4 billion state deficit. However, MnSCU enrollment growth for the past three years is not funded in the Governor’s proposal. Under state law, our base budget is adjusted every two years for changes in enrollment; when our enrollment drops, our budget is reduced, and when it grows, it is adjusted upward. In years when we have not met enrollment projections, the state has not hesitated to take back money. Likewise, the state has an obligation to fund recent enrollment increases. Not funding the enrollment growth means we are serving more students with fewer and fewer state dollars. Please continue to lobby legislators to support the budget request approved by our Board of Trustees, which includes the $130.8 million base adjustment for enrollment growth and $66.5 million for new initiatives.

From the February 4 edition of the Minneapolis Star Tribune…As Gov. Tim Pawlenty glad-handled with reporters before unveiling his proposed 2006-07 budget, he voiced particular pride in one item — the 8.4 percent increase he was recommending for higher education. Only voracious health care programs had won a larger percentage increase in his spending plan. A real 8.4 percent increase in higher ed funding would indeed be worth bragging about. It would go a long way toward mending the damage done in the last two years by a 14 percent cut in state appropriations to the University of Minnesota and MnSCU. It also would rein in galloping increases in tuition. Too bad the governor’s increase isn’t real. Pawlenty can claim to propose an 8.4 percent increase only by ignoring a law that requires an adjustment every two years to correct for faulty enrollment assumptions made by the Legislature two years earlier as it set higher ed outlays. This year, the settle-up amounts to $205 million, in the colleges’ favor. The governor proposes not to pay it. In other words, he recommends spending an additional $221 million on the state’s colleges and universities, while denying them $205 million they already have coming. That makes the real increase being offered those institutions a paltry $16 million, or 0.6 percent. For a state whose future depends on brainpower, $16 million aims far too low.

From the February 4 edition of the St. Paul Pioneer Press…We were as blindsided as University of Minnesota President Bob Bruininks by Gov. Tim Pawlenty’s proposal for a campus in Rochester. Frankly, we think Bruininks has been a good financial steward since taking over the top job in November 2002. He has taken bold steps to put the U’s fiscal house in order, shown an ability to innovate and compromise. We think it would be unwise for the governor to shun his counsel. We’ll reserve judgment [on the Governor’s Rochester university proposal] until we see and hear more specifics from the governor. Rochester, it doesn’t need repeating, is already a thriving medical and science center. The private sector — namely the Mayo Clinic — and public universities seem to be getting along fine. We’d agree with Bruininks that Rochester probably doesn’t need a traditional campus. Many of the course offerings are at the graduate level, particularly the computer science classes that employees of IBM and other high-tech firms take advantage of. Enhancing these types of programs may be exactly what the governor has in mind. If he can make a case, we’ll support him. But before he does, we’d encourage him to consult with Bruininks. He’s a valuable resource the governor should tap for any statewide university planning.

Did you know?

- Kevin Dobbe’s newly commissioned piece for the Rochester Orchestra and Chorale, Interconnections, drew a standing ovation when played and sung last Saturday evening. Interconnections was composed to honor the Rochester Sesquicentennial celebration. It’s a fast-moving piece that focuses on how we are connected together by the things we do for others, the things others do for us, and the things we do together. I’m so proud that one of our own talented faculty members is willing to share his talents with RCTC and the community. Rah, Rah, Kevin!
Dan Chick reported that all 26 Building Utility Mechanics students who recently took their Minnesota State Special Boilers Exam passed on their first attempt. Congratulations to the BUM I students and Dan.

Brenda Johnson, Economics adjunct faculty member, is the newest appointee of the Governor’s Workforce Development Council. Brenda, Chatfield’s Vice Mayor and League of Minnesota Cities Board member, is one of two elected official representatives of the 31-member council. Brenda’s one of Minnesota’s busiest and best public servants.

Thanks to ViAnn Olson and the Math Department faculty who hosted another very successful Mathcounts. A standing room only crowd of family and friends cheered on the academically talented contestants. Winners of this annual regional competition now move on to state competition. Great job, ViAnn and colleagues!

Governor Tim Pawlenty recently announced the appointment of Ruth Grendahl to the MnSCU Board of Trustees. Trustee Grendahl, of Apple Valley, is the owner of RnD Products, a business which markets electrical construction products nationally. From 1991-1999, she served as Deputy Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Public Service. In addition to her MnSCU position, Ruth serves on numerous state and regional boards.

Thought for the Week

The bad news is time flies. The good news is you’re the pilot.

-- Michael Althsuler

The Student Success Day Planning Task Force has put together a terrific February 15 program for students and staff. The Student Ambassadors have converted the Atrium into a jungle. All that’s left is for you and your students to join in Tuesday’s events. “It’s a Jungle Out There” activities begin at 7:30 a.m. in the Atrium, at 11 a.m. take in a keynote address in Hill Theatre, enjoy light breakfast and lunch, and round out the day with a series of concurrent sessions delivered by talented faculty, staff and community members. Please encourage students to participate and learn how to avoid pitfalls in the RCTC jungle. See you in the jungle!

Upward Bound Summer Positions
June 6 - July 7, 2005

Half-day, 8:00 - 12:10, Monday - Thursday, $1500

English Composition, 4-morning classes, same material (one advanced)

Math Instructor, 4-morning classes, all levels up to calculus

1 hour per day, 1:50 - 2:40 PM, Monday - Thursday, $400

Science/Marine Biology, 4-morning classes (one advanced)

Please call Molly Rohe, 280-2931, if you have any questions. Please submit a letter of interest, addressing your qualifications for the position, along with a current resume by March 4, 2005 to: Upward Bound, Box 53.

The February 22 meeting agenda is attached to this week’s Crossings.
Trio Programs (Upward Bound and Student Support Services)  
Face an Uphill Battle

President Bush has proposed to terminate the Upward Bound and Talent Search programs at the end of the 2005-06 school years. I fear that if this happens Student Support Services will be close behind. If the President is successful the cuts totaling 460 million will be used to fund his new high school initiative-- an extension of no child left behind.

TRIO programs have traditionally served the children most often left behind. The TRIO programs offer educational opportunity to low-income, first-generation and disabled Americans. TRIO programs were originally established by the federal government in 1965 to ensure equal educational opportunity for all Americans, regardless of race, ethnic background, or economic circumstance. In many communities, the TRIO programs are the only programs available that help students overcome the class, social, academic and cultural barriers to higher education. The educational and human services offered through the TRIO programs are distinguishable from other academic programs in America because TRIO programs are:

One-to-One, Performance Based, Focused on Early Intervention, Targeted Toward First Generation and Low-Income, Built on Relationships, Committed to Tough Cases, Consistent and Intense, Comprehensive and Cultural, Reality Based, Community Based, Non-Bureaucratic.

Historically, most counselors, clergy or parents don't have the time or expertise to work one-to-one with the students enrolled in our nation's TRIO Programs. Most students from low-income families seek TRIO services because they receive little or no encouragement at home. To most of the more traditional counselors, students from low-income families attempting to overcome social, academic and cultural barriers are too time-consuming, because they require "special services" that most counselors don't or won't provide.

TRIO programs protect our federal investment in student financial aid and have helped to reduce defaults in the federal student loan program. Additionally, the federal investment in the TRIO Student Support Services Program is just $825 per student. The Talent Search Program invests $242 per student and Educational Opportunity Center operate on a $156 per student budget. The budget for Upward Bound can run up to $5,000 per student by this is a year around program that includes a 6 week residential component. These are very frugal means toward enriching the lives of those who may not have educational opportunity otherwise.

Access and retention services are and must continue to be an absolutely essential component of the Federal strategy to ensure equal education opportunity in America. All existing research indicates that very few states are willing to help low-income student barriers to higher education. In fact, the TRIO programs were established in 1965 because most states were blatantly ignoring students from low-income families who needed "special services" to successfully finish high school and prepare for college. (Taken from “Talking Points” The Council for Opportunity in Higher Education 2004)

Why, if we have programs that are proven to work, do we want to create new ones, which are not proven and may not work? I urge all of you to contact our legislators and ask them not to support President Bush’s proposed budget to cut Upward Bound and Talent Search.

If you would like more information and sample letters please contact:

Molly Rohe, Director Upward Bound 280-2931 or Janell Holter, Director Student Support Services 285-7567.

We need your support more then ever before.
Minutes - AMENDED

Academic Affairs and Standards Council
January 18, 2005
Heintz Center, 3:00 p.m.

Present:  Mike Bequette, Terry Brown, Melanie Callister, Jason Dahl, Coralie Fiegel, Thomas Hosier, Jim Kehoe, Jay Lee, Barb Mollberg, Viann Olson, Kathy Olson, Thomas Soltau

Recorder:  Rachelle Splittstoesser

Chair Jim Kehoe called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.

I.  Housekeeping – Written materials for the Computer Science department review had been submitted by Dan Nash and were distributed.  One Council member noted during the course of today’s meeting that we have too many initialisms and acronyms that members cannot penetrate.  In future minutes, Rachelle will provide a list of these at the end of the minutes, so that general readers too can better understand the decisions of the Council, and efforts will be made to “translate” our jargon to facilitate meeting discussions.

II.  Approval of Minutes –  

   Action: Minutes from the December 14th meeting were approved as written.

III. Additions to the Agenda

   Two adjustments to the agenda were requested and approved:

   b.  Policy 3.2 – See Item IV. k.

IV. Academic Standards Issues

   a.  Loading Pre-requisites into Registration System – Mike reported that the MATH department pilot for summer 2005 was moving forward.  There was some uncertainty about whether the pilot would include only students newly admitted to the College for Summer 2005.  Viann believed that the pilot would involve those students who were new last year.  Mike will clarify this with Troy.

      •  Pilot for NA 1500 – The Council agreed that this should be the only nursing assistant course that should be included with math in the prereq pilot.  Related issue:  the electronic catalog incorrectly currently lists prerequisites for this course as ENGL 0840 or a score of 47 CELSA (reading) and ≥ 28 CELT (listening).  Rachelle will research to determine what has happened here.

      •  Procedures moratorium during pilot – Current procedures allow for counselors and UFT math faculty to waive ASAP scores.  During the pilot, counselors will defer these responsibilities to the proposed Math Appeals Committee (MAC).  In addition to waivers, the MAC will address any and all students problems with ISRS block on math registrations during the pilot.  The Council requested that the MAC track the number and nature of appeals it receives during the pilot.

      Math Course Readiness Policy – This policy on the electronic catalog still indicates the ACT 24 score is the waiver for being obligated to take the math placement portion of the ASAP.  In fact, the Math department had requested this be modified so that different ACT scores indicate different math placements.  ViAnn indicated her department is still discussing this issue, but for now the ACT 24 information should be changed.  Rachelle will do this.

      Viann believed that the pilot would involve those students who were new last year.  Mike will clarify this with Troy.  Rachelle will review the previously submitted proposal and confirm changes that affect course readiness policy.

   b.  Accurate Course Inventory – Mike proposed that T/L assemble its list of possibly obsolete courses each September and present this list through AASC to the departments and programs for their consideration.  Related accuracy issues:  Jim requested that curriculum revisions to the Digital Arts Music Technology certificate, and mentions about unapproved articulation agreements, be made as soon as possible, and that the previously approved articulation for the Health Information Technology (HIT) program appear on MnTransfer.org.  Barb will pursue the first, Rachelle the second.
c. Concurrent Enrollment – Jim indicated that the report of the AASC ad hoc committee should be attached to the AASC minutes for the record, in that the Council has endorsed the recommendations contained in the report. The Council concurred with this suggestion.

d. Curriculum proposal revision – Coralie stated that work is still in progress. Mike noted that due to a staff vacancy the work had ceased. Coralie will reconvene the group.

e. Fresh Start – The Council is interested in learning what changes are in the works for nursing admissions and whether these have any particular impact on Fresh Start students. As Nirmala was not present, Mike will ask her for some information on this matter.

f. Mass Comm – Jim noted work is underway and drafts will be submitted to the Council for consideration. Mike noted that if the proposals could be submitted by the February 15th deadline then the information could possibly be included in the fall catalog and students could register for fall, pending MnSCU approval.

g. Clinical Research Coordinator – Mike explained that this would be an A.A.S. degree that would be delivered initially to approximately 1,100 Mayo employees who need the credentials. All but four courses for the degree already exist. These four courses are available through Gateway and would eventually be created and offered by RCTC. A proposal will be submitted.

h. AFA degree – Mike moved that the Council take the preliminary step of approving the use of the AFA degree at Rochester Community and Technical College. The Council approved. Jim expressed the opinion (Jay disagreeing) that the design of the general education components of all future AFA degree programs at RCTC would conform to the 3/3/3/3—that is, 3 credits in Communications, 3 credits in Humanities, 3 in Social Sciences and 3 credits in Science/Mathematics. Council concurred and supports 3/3/3/3, similar to AAS and AS degrees. Board policy sets forward the other requirements of the degree. The deans will provide this information to all faculty who are beginning to develop AFA degrees.

i. Revision of AASC forms – Coralie was asked to re-convene the committee to complete the work on revisions to these forms. Particular attention should be given to the grading schemes issue that Nancy Shumaker has pointed out. The committee will want to present its proposed solution to the Council for approval and eventual inclusions on the various forms under re-design.

j. University of Minnesota – Duluth – Barb stated that meetings have been held and work to develop a degree in Fine Arts (with a Digital Arts focus) is in progress. The program would not be a 2+2 but would include offering the junior and senior year courses in Rochester through the University and might include more than 64 credits from RCTC.

k. 3.2 policy – This policy requires that copies of articulation agreements be on record and accessible in the library, the counseling office, and the Office of the Vice President of Teaching and Learning. After a brief discussion, the Council indicated its willingness to consider a policy revision proposal that would eliminate the need for the library as a depository of these agreements.

V. Curriculum

a. Law Enforcement AAS/AS articulations – Jim noted that the articulation has been received and that the AAS advisement guides will be available soon. Jay indicated that revisions to the certificate are pending MnSCU approval. Action: Approved previously.


c. Proposal 31, Manufacturing Technical Specialist, AAS degree, program revision – Jay distributed a revised proposal for consideration at the February meeting. Action: Tabled.

d. Proposal 35, Academic Program Improvement policy, policy revision – Viann noted inconsistencies in language related to titles, i.e. RCTC refers to VP and MnSCU refers to CAO. Action: Approved with corrected inconsistencies.

VI. Other Business – None
VII. Critique – No suggestions

VIII. Confirmation of Next Meeting Date – Tuesday, February 8th

IX. Confirmation of work to be done before next meeting

   IV. a. Mike will verify the term for which students will begin the prerequisite MATH pilot.
   Rachelle will review previously approved proposal and confirm the changes.
   IV. b. Rachelle will update articulation information on the MnTransfer. Org site.
   IV. d. Coralie will call the next group meeting to continue work on AASC proposal form revisions.
   IV. e. Nirmala will give an explanation at the February meeting.
   IV. f. A proposal will be submitted.
   IV. g. A proposal will be submitted.
   IV. k. Mike will submit a policy revision.
   V. c. Jay will submit a revised policy.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40p.m.