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R25

Congratulations!

A contingent of RCTC administration and faculty attended The Board of Trustees Award for Excellence in Teaching and Academic and Student Affairs Award event on April 16th. The pictures show our group at the event and receiving awards. Two of our outstanding faculty were recognized, Lynn Guenette received a silver medal for excellence and Robin Fruth-Dugstad was one of 4 individuals honored with The Board of Trustees Award and gold medallion for excellence in teaching. The picture of Robin and Julie Rodakowski (last year's Trustee's award winner) shows them comparing medallions. A video crew was on campus a number of weeks ago to create a multimedia vignette of Robin and her work with Horticultural Technology which was played prior to her acceptance of the Trustee award. The evening was a gala event and brought noteworthy recognition to the excellent faculty we have at RCTC. Congratulations to our 2008 award winners!

“Every survival kit should include a sense of humor.”
~Author Unknown
Crossings Classifieds
GARAGE SALE: Lincolnshire Neighborhood Garage Sale (NW Rochester behind Mayo Support Center) - Friday, April 25th 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 26th 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Chris Wolf x7121.

Mechanical Engineering Club/ Women’s Self-Defense
Martial Arts Club/Women’s Self-Defense
Martial Arts Club meets Wednesdays from 7-9 in SC108. Also, a Women's Self-Defense Class is available to all women (RCTCers and non-RCTCers welcome!). We meet on two Saturdays in April, 4/19 and 4/26, from 10:00 AM to noon in SC202 (the dance studio on the second floor of the Sports Center). Please come dressed to be comfortable and active. A $5 donation is requested, to be given to a local women's shelter.

You’re Invited – Mark Your Calendar!
Please join us for our annual retirement reception in honor of this year’s retirees many years of dedication to RCTC and our students. Retirees to be honored are: Eugene Allen; William Bakken; Claryce Bany; Jack Denny; Earlene Hackenmiller; Katherine Jacobson; Warren Kemplin; William Knutson; Patricia Kraemer; Nancy Midler; Richard Miller; Marilyn Treder; Delores Wright.

Thursday, May 8, 2008 from 2-4pm in CF206/208
Brief program at 2:30pm.
Supalla Scribblings

The Supplemental Budget Conference Committee continues to discuss the details of the budget balancing recommendation they will be forwarding to the Governor. The Governor has proposed a $26 million reduction for MnSCU, the House and Senate number will likely be considerably lower. With a full three weeks remaining before the mandatory adjournment, there’s plenty of time for discussion and compromise. Stay tuned for future developments.

Best of the Best -- A very proud delegation of RCTC staff and guests journeyed to Minneapolis Community and Technical College on April 16 to honor Lynn Guenette and Robin Fruth-Dugstad, who were honored with MnSCU Board of Trustees Awards for Excellence in Teaching. The System employs approximately 8,000 faculty members and RCTC’s two winners were part of a contingent of just 22 faculty members who were selected for these prestigious awards. Four of the award winners, including Robin, were selected to receive gold medallions and a $5,000 stipend. Julie Rodakowski, one of last year’s three gold medal winners, was also recognized at the event. RCTC is the only college to claim back-to-back gold medal winners. The impressive portfolios that were submitted, and the College’s two winners in two years, are a tribute to the quality of our faculty. Congratulations, Robin and Lynn!

Campus Kudos

- Colleen Landherr learned last week that the Community Education Advisory Council approved a $2,000 grant for the Get Up, Get Moving, Get There Camp. The camp is expected to draw up to 100 students, and will be held on the UCR campus from June 16-20, 2008.
- Over the past several months, the Office of the Chancellor has convened a series of focus groups to gain an understanding and perspective of e-learning in the system. It’s now time to take the information gleaned and develop strategies that best empower students and support student learning in light of the rapidly changing e-learning environment. Michelle Pyfferoen as been appointed to a small group of knowledgeable representatives from across MnSCU who will review, envision and develop strategies for advancing e-learning in the system. Congratulations to Michelle! Her appointment is a tribute to the great web-based instruction being delivered by RCTC’s Business and Workforce Development Department.
- Books, books, books! Marcia Connelly and Stacey York report that hundreds of books have been contributed to the Second Annual Judith Lindman Memorial Book Drive. If you didn’t drop off your new or gently used children’s book this week, I bet they’d still be accepted if you forwarded them via intercampus mail. Thanks to all who contributed to this wonderful tribute. The books will be delivered to a number of deserving Rochester organizations.
- Are you into customized cars, hot rods, or want to see one of Jay Leno’s collector cars? If so, you won’t want to miss the 2008 Hot Rod Power Tour. The Tour will make its only Minnesota stop, one of only seven in the country, at University Center on Thursday, June 12. A caravan of 3,500 cars is expected to travel from Ames, Iowa, to UCR, and then on to Madison, Wisconsin. The cars will be on display at UCR from noon until 7 p.m. Admission to the public is free and you’ll be able to gawk at some of the country’s finest customized cars, talk with exhibitors, buy from vendors, listen to live music, eat, and enjoy the fair-like atmosphere. Students and staff will be bussed to UCR Main on June 12. More details will be forthcoming in the next few weeks. Check out details at http://www.hotrod.com.

The Instructional Technology Council has just compiled statistics from its 2007 survey. Campuses reported a 15 percent increase from fall-to-fall for distance education enrollments, substantially ahead of overall campus enrollment growth which averaged just two percent nationally. Sixty-seven percent of campuses reported they offer non-credit distance education classes. This was up six percent from the previous year. The three greatest challenges for administrators of distance education programs were support staff needed for training and technical assistance, adequate student services for distance education students, and operating and equipment budgets. Forty-five percent of the respondents reported they charge students an additional per-credit fee to take distance education classes, an increase of five percent nationally. The overall average of fees assessed was $26. Seventy-one percent of the respondents indicated their college required faculty to participate in a training program to teach a distance education course. The overall average of fees assessed was $26. Seventy-one percent of the respondents indicated their college required faculty to participate in a training program to teach a distance education course (up from 67 percent in 2006 and 57 percent in 2005). The average retention rate for students in distance education courses was 72 percent, while it averaged 78 percent in traditional face-to-face classes. Student demand for distance education courses at community colleges continues to grow. Online programs are well-established at most two-year institutions, are increasingly viewed as mainstream, represent the only area of enrollment growth for many colleges, and most chief academic officers believe that the quality of online instruction is equal to or superior to that of on-ground instruction. More information about the survey can be found at http://www.itcnetwork.org.

Thought for the Week from former Secretary of State Colin Powell

None of us can change our yesterdays, but all of us can change our tomorrows.

Until next week. Don
A Litter Bit Better!
Join all the RCTC Facilities Staff on April 24th from 7:00am to 12:00pm for "A Litter Bit Better" day here at RCTC. We are looking for individuals or teams to help us clean up our campus!!! Call Cris Kellas to sign up or for more information at 285-7244. A flier with more information is attached.

You're Invited…
Reading In the Round: Student Poetry Under the Sky on April 30 from 11:00 am to 12:15 pm in the Outdoor Amphitheatre (between Health Sciences and the Sports Center). Bring your lunch or buy a snack at the Café, and spend some time in the sunshine listening to RCTC students read their poetry. Ten students from ENGL 2252, Writing Poetry, will be joined by Pushcart Prize nominee Jodeen Wink and class instructor Pam Whitfield as they read their original works. Students, staff and faculty are invited to attend this free event in honor of National Poetry Month. Questions? Email pam.whitfield@roch.edu

Spring Children’s Theatre Production
You are cordially invited to our annual Spring Children's Theatre Production of "Rip Van Winkle". Our very own Jerry Casper has once again put pen to paper, and with his usual wit and charm, he has adapted the classic Washington Irving tale to the stage. I hope you will make time to see it and bring your little ones! There will be three public performances of "Rip Van Winkle": Friday, April 18 at 7:00pm and Saturday, April 19 at 2:00pm and 7:00pm. Tickets may be purchased at the door, one hour prior to curtain. General admission. The play lasts about one hour with no intermission. Prices: $5.00 adults; $3.00 children 12 and under. RCTC/WSU students receive one free ticket with valid student ID.

CAD Receives Cabinets!
The CAD department received a donation of two stained glass cabinet panels for their newly renovated classroom. The artist is Ralph Pearson, a student in the A.A.S. CAD program. Ralph’s background in Architectural stained glass spans 28 years. Feel free to stop in the CAD department and take a look at Ralph's craftsmanship.

UCR Faculty Lecture Series
Dr. John Tacinelli will present Exploring the Arctic: An Adventure in Greenland, in the Hill Theatre, Wednesday, April 23 at 12:00 with a reception following in the Quiet Lounge. ALSO, next year's speakers will be announced at that time! You don't want to miss out!!! Attached is a flyer of Dr. Tacinelli's presentation.

Upcoming Music Concert
“Jump, Jive, and Wail !” ~ Jazz Band/Aires Concert
Featuring a night of high energy, rock the house music from the RCTC Jazz Band and the Aires.

Upcoming Events at the Regional Sport Center
Apr 26 Pacesetters Basketball Tournament (8am-8pm)
May 2, 3 & 4 MN/USA Greco-Roman State Championships
May 10, 11 Rochester Cup Volleyball Tournament
May 17 NAMI, Walk for Research and Education

Upcoming Music Concert
“Jump, Jive, and Wail !” ~ Jazz Band/Aires Concert
Featuring a night of high energy, rock the house music from the RCTC Jazz Band and the Aires.

Tickets: $5.00 each
RCTC/WSU students receive one free ticket with valid student ID.
Refreshments served at intermission.
All seats reserved seating.

Contact Rhonda Jensson at x7200 for more information.
Rochester Community and Technical College is proud to welcome:

From Temple to Theater

“Ragamala astounds audiences with works that expand one’s perceptions of dance, cross-cultural collaboration, and spiritual meaning.”

– Minneapolis Star Tribune

One Night Only!

RAGAMALA

Tuesday, April 22, 2008
7:00 pm
Hill Theatre

Tickets:
$20.00 adults
$15.00 Children, Sen. Citizens (65 and up), and non-RCTC/WSU students.

UCR staff receive two tickets at $15.00 each with additional tickets available at above prices.

RCTC/WSU students receive one free ticket with valid student ID

Tickets on sale Monday, April 7 at 8:00 am.

Phone the RCTC Box Office at 507-285-7200 for reservations and more information. All seats reserved seating.

Box Office hours: Monday—Friday, 8:00 am—4:00 pm

Meet the artists at a post-concert reception, light refreshments provided.

One of the most popular of Ragamala’s offerings, From Temple to Theater is an evening length performance that unfolds the beauty, elegance, poetry, and driving rhythmic complexities of Bharatanatyam, the ancient classical dance of southern India. Set to an array of musical influences, from the soulful, classical music of India to the thundering Taiko drumming by Wadaiko Ensemble Tekara of Nagano, Japan, this program is sure to please all audiences. To learn more about Ragamala, visit them online at www.ragamala.net
ROCHESTER COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

STUDENT LIFE

GOLF TOURNAMENT

4 Person Scramble - Featuring the Vern Bushlack Scholarship Endowment Fund

– Monday, May 5, 2008 –

Noon Sign-In ~ 12:30pm Shotgun start ~ 6:30pm Dinner ~ Program Following

RTC Student Life:
- $55.00 per RCTC/WSU student golf and chicken/ribs dinner (student ID required)
- Free! RCTC/WSU student dinner only (student ID required)
- $95.00 per non-student golf and dinner
- $25.00 per non-student dinner only
- Remember to register by April 28th

There are several ways to register for this event, contact: Scott Krook (285-7206); Jean Jech (285-7771) OR download and print a form via the RCTC web site at www.rctc.edu

Vern Bushlack Horticulture Scholarship Fund:
- $200 Golf Hole Sponsorship (Golf Hole Signage)
- Contribute to our auction
- Contribute to the Vern Bushlack Horticulture Scholarship Endowment Fund
- Remember to notify us of your support by April 14th

Contact the RCTC Foundation for additional information about contributions to benefit the scholarship fund. Phone: 281-7771 or jean.jech@rach.edu

~ HOSTED BY THE SOMERBY GOLF CLUB ~

Dress Attire: Golf shoes, collared shirts, no jeans. In case of rain – golf rainchecks will be available. Dinner and program will be held as scheduled and begins at 6:30PM.
UCR Faculty, Staff and Students – World Wide Pinhole Day

Make a handmade camera, shoot, develop prints in the RCTC darkroom and put your print on the World Wide Pinhole website. Join the RCTC Art Club and thousands of others in countries throughout the world in celebrating World Wide Pinhole Day on April 30, 2006. WWPD is an annual event created to promote and celebrate the art of pinhole photography. People throughout the world take some time off from the increasingly technological world we live in to participate in the simple act of making a pinhole photograph. The Worldwide Pinhole Photography Day is held each year on the last Sunday in April.

Pinhole photographs are made with a light tight box (camera) minus a lens. Often the cameras are handmade, using materials normally found in the kitchen and garage. Participants are invited to attend one of two workshop sessions to learn the basics of pinhole photography and build a simple camera. On April 30, World Wide Pinhole Day, the RCTC darkroom will be open for participants from 10AM-4PM, to shoot and develop pinhole photographs. There will be lots help! You do not need experience in photography.

Pinhole basics and camera construction workshops (pre-registration is required):
1-4 PM, Friday, April 7
1-4 PM, Saturday, April 8
Both sessions will be held in AH201.

Pinhole shooting and printing
10AM-4PM, Sunday, April 30

Pre-register with almae.larson@roch.edu. Be sure to use pinhole as your subject when sending the e-mail. Indicate which camera construction workshop you will be attending. First come first served. Space is limited. The workshop is free. You need to bring an oatmeal box or Pringles can…or something that’s cylinder. It needs a cover and should not be plastic. Other materials will be provided at the camera construction workshop.

Check out http://www.pinholeday.org for more information on this World Wide event. Galleries with pinholes from previous years, as well as resources are provided on this website.

Instructors Wanted!

We are looking for Learning Is ForEver (LIFE) Program Instructors! Did you know that Rochester Community and Technical College along with the University of Minnesota – Rochester sponsor a Learning in Retirement Program? The courses are held during the daytime in classrooms at Heintz Center. Three brochures are mailed to members each year – Fall, Winter, and Spring. Barry McKnight, adjunct History instructor sent the following quote after his recent LIFE teaching experience - "The LIFE groups give me a change to teach and discuss at a depth that can be sometimes difficult to reach with my regular classes." The Learning in Retirement Programs are based in college and university settings because of the wealth of instructors available. Please consider sharing your expertise with this dynamic group of learners. Please email chrisanne.pieper@roch.edu if you are interested.
Rochester Community and Technical College
Minnesota State College Faculty (MSCF) Faculty Shared Governance Council
Minutes for Tuesday, March 25, 2008 – 2:00 p.m. – AT109

Present: Administration Bequette, Cram, Hansmann, Supalla
Faculty Gust, Marconett, Martinez, Wright
Guest: Art Leible
Recorder: Kingsbury

ITEM 7 (A) RCTC E-mail System – Leible reported there are serious problems with Groupwise; hence consideration is being given to converting the e-mail system from Groupwise to Microsoft Exchange. The plan is to migrate individual e-mail boxes into Exchange throughout the summer in order to provide ample training. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 1 (F) Solve and Dissolve Task Forces – Wright requested the same process be followed for faculty membership appointments in solve and dissolve task forces as with other committees. ACTION: The request for faculty membership to serve on solve and dissolve task forces will go through Wright.

ITEM 1 (A) IPP Update – Hansmann reminded faculty that the deadline for submitting IPPs is March 28, 2008. R&R requests are being reviewed this week. Wright questioned if Administration felt comfortable that adequate notification has been given to the faculty about the deadlines. A short discussion followed on the best way to communicate deadlines since the increase in e-mail communication has resulted in messages not being read. ACTION: Excessive e-mail communication will be placed back on the agenda for a future discussion.

ITEM 2 (A) Policy Reviews
A) Academic Standards (3.17.3) First Reading – Bequette announced the policy changes were supported by the Academic Affairs and Standards Council. ACTION: Faculty support the policy changes and waive the second reading.

B) Financial Aid SAP (2.9.2) First Reading – Bequette announced the changes reflect those needed to align the policy with the revised Academic Standards policy above. ACTION: Faculty support the policy changes and waive the second reading.

C) Student Excused Absences (2.8.4) First Reading – Cram announced the additional policy language addresses the approval for students to be absent when fulfilling their civic responsibility of jury duty. Wright suggested language be added to address the fact that lengthy absences, although excused, may result in the students’ inability to be successful and complete the coursework. Cram agreed, adding administration will work with the students to make appropriate accommodations. ACTION: Cram will add new language suggested by Wright and the policy will return to the next meeting for a second reading.

ITEM 3 (A) Academic Calendar Proposal 2009-2010 (second review) – Wright announced the academic calendar doesn’t need to be shared at FSGC, but can be done through an informal process. Supalla responded it has always been the practice of RCTC to share the calendar through the meet and confer process. Wright questioned if administration had supporting data to reflect the usefulness of the Student Success Day activities. Bequette responded tracking would be done for those students that reported their attendance at the last event. Cram added, if the data doesn’t support two sessions, one of the assigned dates could be modified into an orientation session for students. ACTION: Bequette will share Student Success Day data at the next meeting.

ITEM 4 (A) FY 09 Tuition/Fees and Budget – Hansmann reported the MnSCU Board of Trustees have not yet approved the FY09 tuition/fee rates and, depending on what the Governor does with the state short-fall, the Board may reconsider the tuition increases. Supalla added legislators are sending a message that any “take back” funds should be handled by reducing the technology and system office appropriation, keeping the cuts as far away from the institutions and students as possible. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 5 (A) Legislative Update – Supalla shared an update on the capital bonding requests, including HEAPR, plaza lab remodeling, and the workforce center collocation projects. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 6 (A) 2007 Core Student Outcomes Study – Supalla shared a copy of the 2007 Core Student Outcomes Study, noting RCTC is one of only two colleges that have not defined the student core outcomes for the report. Although Bequette has assured Supalla the reporting will be completed by the end of the semester, Supalla stated this is just an example of many missed deadlines that have been occurring on campus. Supalla stated RCTC’s completion of the online security awareness training (10-16% completion rate) is unacceptable and an embarrassment to the College. Supalla also noted a grade appeal policy/process was to be established two years ago, yet AASC has continued to table the item without any progress. Supalla shared his frustration and disappointment that RCTC continually
is being seen at the system office as “not getting their work done.” Supalla stated the responsibility lies with all employees, but especially with faculty since they make up the majority of the College’s workforce. Martinez questioned if the issue is workload, and questioned if Bequette could delegate more items to the faculty to ensure reports are completed in a timely manner. Bequette responded he doesn’t believe that is the issue. Wright stated it may be another example of the “e-mail overload” and, although notices were going out to remind people to complete assignments, the information may just be getting lost in the multitude of other e-mails that are being received. In regards to the grade appeal policy/procedure, Wright stated he believed there was an honest difference of opinion between faculty and administration, and the vote was delayed because they were trying to work things out. Wright stated that the faculty had submitted several proposals but none of them were accepted. Martinez added the faculty were waiting for additional information before proceeding in AASC. Supalla responded that two years is too long; hence Supalla has made the decision on the grade appeal policy and the RCTC policy has been communicated to the Office of the Chancellor. Wright stated, in the faculty defense, that the decision to wait on moving the policy forward was because the issue was going to arbitration, and faculty didn’t believe it was appropriate to write a policy that would end up in arbitration. Supalla responded a two year delay is not acceptable, and in the future, administration may need to move forward with an approval or denial of an issue in order to avoid lengthy procrastination. Wright also suggested defining the core outcomes could be assigned to AASC because of its academic component. Bequette disagreed, adding the issue needs broad based input from all constituency groups of the College. Supalla stated his belief that AASC already has a lot on its plate as evidenced by the number of proposals listed on the recent agendas. Bequette responded consideration is being made to using a consent agenda format for those proposals that have no concerns/issues. Wright suggested; due to the amount of work and time involved with AASC, Administration reconsider the release time assignment for the faculty chair of AASC.

ACTION: Information only.

Adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: April 22, 2008 – 2:00 p.m. – AT109