Congratulations!

Excellence in scholastic achievement is recognized each semester by compiling a Dean’s List. To qualify for the Dean’s List, a student must successfully complete at least 12 college-level credits in the same semester, with a minimum term grade point average of 3.0 or better in the same semester. Additionally, the credit courses completed must have earned grade points. Credits for P and grades of I, AU, CR and W are excluded from the count. Letters of congratulations are sent to students receiving a GPA of 3.5 and above. The Dean’s List is posted in the Admissions and Records area and at the Heintz Center, as well as distributed to local media. The listing can also be downloaded by going to: http://www.rctc.edu/about/html/Deans-list.html.

Congratulations to all who made the list! There are 1,249 students who made the Dean's List for Spring Semester, 2009.
* 4.0: 272 students
* 3.5 - 4.99: 434 students
* 3.0-3.49: 543 students

Questions regarding the Dean's List can be directed to Roxy Roadway in the Office of the Vice President of Student Development Services at (507) 285-7127 or by e-mail at: roxy.roadway@roch.edu.

Summer Crossings Dates

Remaining publication dates for summer issues include: July 13 and August 17. The deadline for publication for each issue is 3:00pm the preceding Thursday.

~ Jenee McGurren/College Relations Office

Thought for the month...

A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing and the lawn mower is broken.

~ James Dent

CLICK HERE FOR FALL SEMESTER CALENDARS
Yellowjacket Golf Outing

There’s still time to register for the 15th Annual Yellowjacket Golf Outing! The cost is $80 which pays for green fees, cart and dinner. Your participation will support Champa/Kereakos scholarships, as well as aid the RCTC Foundation programs and projects. The date is Friday, June 19th with Check-in at 11:00 am. Best Ball Tee Off at 11:30. It’s being held at the Willow Creek Golf Course, 1700 48th Street SW, Rochester. For more information or to register, contact Joni Gamm at 281-7771 or Jean Jech at 281-7770.

Join in the Parade Fun!

RCTC Student Life is inviting all of you to be a part of this year’s parade season. Last summer was a blast thanks to all the RCTC volunteers that helped out. We have plenty of candy, blaring music and flashing lights! The crowds always go crazy! So please come join us again this summer. Our parade schedule is as follows: Rochesterfest Parade - Friday, June 26th - Line up by 5:30 p.m. - Start time at 6:15 p.m.; Stewartville Summerfest Parade - Saturday, July 4th - Line up by 5:30 p.m. - Start time at 6:30 p.m.; Byron Good Neighbor Days Parade - Friday, July 17th - Line up by 4 p.m.; Chatfield Western Days Parade - Saturday, August 8th - Line up at 12 p.m. - Start time at 1 p.m. - (We could use a lot of help at this parade as Scott will not be attending it.); Plainview Corn on the Cob Days - Sunday, August 16th - Line up at 12:30 p.m. - Start time at 1:30 p.m. RCTC needs people to walk and throw out candy. Feel free to invite friends, or family. Also feel free to bring rollerblades or dogs to walk. Please wear RCTC gear if you have some or t-shirts will be provided. If you are interested please contact Kylie Osterhus in Student Life at kylie.osterhus@roch.edu or (507) 285-7207. You can also contact scott.krook@roch.edu or (507) 285-7206.

Condolences

Condolences to LeAnn Stucky on the passing away of her father, John “Bud” Stucky, on Saturday, May 16, 2009. Condolences also are extended to Kimberly Leitzen on the passing away of her grandmother, Bernett Ferbuyt, on Friday, June 5, 2009. Our thoughts are with LeAnn and Kim at this time.

Thank You

RCTC Faculty & Staff – From our family to you ---- thank you for your support, words of kindness, the most beautiful plant, cards of remembrance, and your presence either in person or in thought at the celebration of life for our father/grandfather, John D. Stucky. We truly appreciate your thoughts and prayers.

~ LeaAnn Stucky, Joshua, Jenna & Jessica and Family

Congratulations!

The Financial Aid Office is very happy to announce that they recently hired Judy Savage as a new full-time member of their team. Judy will be coordinating the imaging of all documents for the Financial Aid Office. In addition, she will provide support for the various financial aid programs and provide additional assistance at our front desk/reception area. If you see Judy around campus this summer, extend your congratulations!
I was hoping to be able to share some updated budget information with you, but Governor Pawlenty hasn’t played his “unallotment” card yet. Although the Governor can’t officially reduce biennial budgets until July 1, he has indicated that he will announce soon how he plans to deal with Minnesota’s $2.7 billion budget gap. This gap resulted from the inability of the legislature and governor to agree on a balanced budget. It is anticipated that the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system will receive an unallotment of approximately $70 million in 2011, the second year of the biennium. Once the state budget is set, the MnSCU Board of Trustees will finalize tuition increases for the upcoming academic year. Chancellor McCormick is recommending a budget that would hold tuition increases to an average of 2.8% more than the current year for two-year college students. The proposed tuition includes a one-time discount from federal stimulus funds. The MnSCU Board has scheduled a public hearing on the proposed budget and recommended tuition increase from 1-3 p.m. June 17 at the system office in St. Paul. The trustees are not expected to act on the proposed budget until their July board meeting. Stay tuned for more unallotment and tuition information as July 1 approaches.

A number of repair and replacement projects are underway on campus. A major roof replacement is occurring at the Heintz Center, concrete repair and tuck pointing work is underway on the Memorial building and a major expansion to the west parking lot is taking shape. The usual summer deep cleaning and facility touch-up projects have begun and the flower beds around campus are being planted. Many thanks to our grounds crew and maintenance staff for their good work. We apologize for the inconvenience but are looking forward to the facelift.

During the coming months, the Minnesota Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA) will conduct an evaluation of the MnSCU system office’s services and expenditures. This audit was requested by Chancellor McCormick and Trustee Chair Olson as a desired assessment of system operations after more than a decade in operation. The audit evaluation team will look at various system office activities, including services provided directly by colleges and universities. The team will make a number of comparisons and use a variety of tools, including campus interviews and surveys. In the next few weeks and months, evaluators may arrive on campus to consider the opinions of system employees and students. I join Chancellor McCormick, Chair Olson, and Executive Director of Internal Auditing John Asmussen in urging your full cooperation with the evaluation team. Please answer any inquiries honestly or refer evaluators to others who can be of assistance.

Campus Kudos…

➢ Enrollment management, admissions and records, counseling and advising, financial aid, Veterans Affairs, and everyone else has been working hard this summer to accommodate the ever-increasing number of inquiries, applications and enrollments. Summer session enrollment is up substantially and fall applications and registrations are outpacing those of a year ago. As with other MnSCU institutions, the percentage of students enrolling in online offerings continues to increase. Official summer session enrollment numbers will be shared later in the summer, but all indications are that the increase could be substantial.

➢ On May 20, Jean Marconett and Don Baldus were recognized at the Board of Trustees “Celebrating Excellence 2009” luncheon as RCTC’s outstanding educators. Robin Fruth-Dugstad, 2008 award winner joined Mike Bequette and me at the celebration. On May 28, Lori Halverson-Wente and RCTC’s Cambodia study abroad program was recognized as one of nine programs in the state with an Excellence in Curriculum Programming Award. Lori, Kim Sin and a contingent of participants joined Mike Bequette, Barb Mollberg and me for the recognition event at Hennepin Technical College. Please congratulate all these deserving winners when you see them on campus.

➢ The Yellowjacket men’s golf team traveled to New York to participate in the NJCAA national tournament and brought home the Division III second place trophy. Congratulations to the team and Coach Brian LaPlante!

➢ Todd Cage and the Intensive Care Paramedic program hosted a national accreditation team visit recently. The team has shared their preliminary findings and submitted their report to the accreditation committee who is expected to act on the findings later this summer. Thanks to all who helped welcome the visitors and responded to requests.

Did you know…Less than 3 percent of the water found on earth is fresh. Of that amount, more than 60 percent is trapped in glaciers, 30 percent is located underground, and just 3 percent can be tapped from lakes and rivers. If you could fit all of the world’s water into a gallon jug, the amount of safe water available for human consumption would equal about 1 tablespoon. -- From “Facts of the Matter,” THE ROTARIAN, June 2009

Thought for the summer…I just do not hang around anybody that I don’t want to be with. Period. For me, that’s been a blessing, and I can stay positive. I hang around people who are happy, who are growing, who want to learn, who don’t mind saying sorry or thank you…and are having a fun time. -- John Assaraf, Author, The Street Kid’s Guide…

I hope you’re hanging around people you like…happy, growing, learning, polite friends. Have a great summer!

~ Don
**Baseball News**

There will be three players from the RCTC Baseball team who will be competing for Collegiate Leagues this summer. Shane Brandt, SO, 3B from Decatur, IL and Bret Gwaltney, FR, OF/LHP from Rochester John Marshall will be playing all summer for a Collegiate league in Florida, similar to the Northwoods League. Alex Klug, FR, RHP from Caledonia has signed a 10-day contract with the Rochester Honkers with an option for 20 days total and a possibility to be with the Honkers for the whole season. He will pitch in relief. Wish him well and cheer for him at Mayo field this summer!

**Snapshots at jasonlove.com**

"I don't care what she sez. I only drink t'get to the worm."

**Academic Accolades**

Gary Schattschneider (Speech/Theatre) was notified that a number of his costumes and set designs are being included in the Masque Youth Theatre and School's archived materials in the University Library, University of Minnesota. Gary has been associated with The Masque from its beginning through its 20 year history. He was responsible for designing the stage and audience configuration, the box office and lobby as well as a number of stage sets and costumes for productions such as *Hamlet*, *The Miser*, *The Imaginary Invalid*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona* and sets for *Little Women*, *Tom Sawyer*, *Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, *Love's Labors Lost* and the Masque's inaugural production of *Twelfth Night*. Gary will officially be retiring from RCTC in August after 26 years working in the Speech/Theatre department.

Lori Halverson-Wente's Cambodia Service Learning Project in which students build wells and bathrooms to improve the water supply and teach English to school children for a non-government organization called Youth Service Cambodia is one of nine colleges and universities within the MnSCU system being recognized with an award of outstanding achievement. Congratulations to Lori, Barb and others associated with the project!

**Employee News**

Congratulations to Simon Huelsbeck (Art Instructor) and Denise Otteson who are the proud parents of Oliver J. Huelsbeck, born on Friday, May 22 at 12:26 p.m. Oliver weighed in at 8 lb. 15 oz. Welcome, Oliver, to the RCTC Family!

Congratulations and Best Wishes to Josh Henslin (Information Technology Specialist) on your engagement to Katie Hardy. Josh and Katie are planning a June 27th wedding at the Hardy residence in Willmar, Minnesota.

**Retiree News**

Congratulations to RCTC Retiree Tom Ostrom’s whose latest book entitled *The United States Coast Guard in World War II: A History of Domestic and Overseas Actions* is scheduled to be released shortly. Tom was a member of the United States Coast Guard Reserve from 1961 to 1969 before coming to RCTC to teach anthropology, geography, and history in 1967. Tom retired from the College in 1999.

**Crossings Classifieds**

**COMMUNITY EVENT:** Fundraiser for Elder Network. A wedding murder mystery at the Plummer House. One performance remaining on June 20th. For more information, CLICK HERE or contact Kathy Richie at x7251.

**COMMUNITY EVENT:** 11th Annual ABWA golf tournament on June 17th. For more information, CLICK HERE or contact Rose Conway at x7260.
Rochester Community and Technical College
Minnesota State College Faculty (MSCF) Faculty Shared Governance Council
Minutes for Tuesday, April 28, 2009 – 2:00 p.m. – AT109

Present: Administration Bequette, Hansmann, Supalla
Faculty Atwood, Guenette, Israelson, Marconett, Martinez, O’Bryan, Wright (Chair)
Recorder: Kingsbury
Guests: Engelmeyer

ITEM 1 (A) Search Update – Engelmeyer distributed the latest search update spreadsheet, noting several faculty positions have been filled since the last meeting. Engelmeyer also announced that the College would be participating in a state-wide webinar regarding retirement and the webinar is available to everyone. Wright expressed his appreciation to Engelmeyer for setting a pleasant tone for the Human Resource Office to work cooperatively with the faculty. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 1 (F) Class Size – Wright announced the faculty do not support increasing class size and do not believe a rationale was presented that justified such changes. Wright also expressed his desire for the decision to be reconsidered or at least placed on hold until next year. Wright went on to say that the increase in workload may jeopardize the quality of instruction, and RCTC should be looked to as the leader (understanding quality of instruction and workload) and not follow what the other colleges are doing (increasing class size). Furthermore, Wright requested it be stated for the record that the decision to increase the class size was not supported by faculty at any committee level. Supalla responded discussions were held and are documented through AASC meeting minutes, of which faculty have a responsibility to read the minutes of such meetings. Supalla added the financial conditions are requiring efficiencies and one way to add efficiency is through class size. Supalla also stated, although the phased changes are being implemented, it does not preclude the College from reviewing the progress in a year and further discussing whether the initiative should continue to move forward as proposed, be modified, or suspended. Wright expressed his appreciation for Administration’s willingness to review again in the future. ACTION: The College will implement phase one of increasing class sizes.

ITEM 7 (A) – Policy Reviews:

a) Academic Program Review Policy (3.36) Third Reading – Wright stated the faculty believe the workload being done by the Program Leaders/Division Coordinators already surpasses the workload intended in the contract for the amount of release time credits awarded. Wright added he understands under the current budget situation that work needs to be spread around, but added there is a point when the work may not be sustainable. Wright suggested one way to reduce the workload is to reduce the number of hours Program Leaders/Division Coordinators spend in meetings a month. In addition, Wright suggested that the issues at those meetings remain more focused. Supalla responded the suggestions are good, but faculty need to have those conversations with Bequette and the Academic Deans, adding it would be helpful to know the specifics of what issues the faculty are dealing with that are not appropriate for those meetings. Wright responded the faculty would support the policy changes with the understanding that continued conversations would take place on the priority issues and workload of the Program Leaders/Division Coordinators. ACTION: Faculty support the policy revisions under the condition that additional conversations be held with Bequette and the Academic Deans.

b) Academic Standards Policy (3.17.3) Third Reading – Wright stated the faculty do not support the revised policy because it is confusing and vague. Bequette responded that he consulted with Office of the Chancellor Staff and they indicated one year was too long of a period of time before scrutinizing a change; adding many MnSCU institutions limit a change to one semester. Supalla suggested Wright and Bequette work together to re-write Part 3 of the Policy to make it more clear. ACTION: Wright and Bequette will re-write Part 3 of the Policy and return for a Fourth Reading.

c) Intercollegiate Athletics (2.6) –Second Reading – Wright reported the faculty support the revisions to the current policy. ACTION: The Intercollegiate Athletics policy was approved.

Have some summer FUN!
d) Tobacco Free Campus (5.18.2) – Second Reading – Wright reported the faculty support the new Tobacco Free Campus policy. ACTION: The Tobacco Free Campus policy will continue to move through the proper policy review process with students and the other bargaining unions.

ITEM 2 (A) Budget/Tuition – Supalla reported the FY10 budget is being developed based on a worst case scenario (10% budget reduction and a 5% tuition increase, including a buy-down). Supalla added there is currently no consideration of staff reductions or program closures, however several position remain unfilled. Hansmann added fees will not increase, including the parking fee. Supalla added there may be some shifting of expenditures between funds (i.e. institutional student help may be paid out of auxiliary enterprise funds). ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 4 (A) Red Flag Regulations – Cram reported the College is responsible to ensure student information is secure; hence a local task force is working on developing materials to be shared campus-wide to protect our students from identity theft. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 3 (F) Dean Replacement – Israelson reported the faculty voted unanimously to recommend not replacing the Dean of Teaching and Learning during the interim, adding it is an opportunity to examine how the College does things, and with the tight budgets, determining which duties are essential and which may be placed on hold (i.e. eliminating faculty evaluations for one year). Wright added the vacancy may be a great opportunity to look at reorganizing Teaching and Learning with one less Dean. Bequette confirmed that initial discussions have been held with the remaining three Deans to determine what tasks could be postponed and what duties could be redistributed should the Dean position remain vacant for one year. Bequette and Supalla confirmed no definite decision will be made on the replacement of the Dean until a clearer understanding of the budget is determined in the next few weeks. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 5 (A) 2010-2011 Academic Calendar Draft – Bequette stated WSU has requested RCTC reconsider adjusting spring break to align with WSU’s calendar to meet the needs of co-enrolled students. Specifically, WSU would agree to delay spring break by one week if RCTC is willing to move spring break up one week. Although a common spring break would be beneficial, it was noted RCTC postpones spring break to accommodate nursing and law enforcement needs, and to provide ample time for winter sports to conclude before spring sports begins. ACTION: The 2010-2011 calendar will not change.

ITEM 4 (F) Charter Schools – Wright questioned if Administration was considering sponsoring a new charter school. Supalla confirmed conversations have taken place for a new online charter school. Wright stated he believed MnSCU was scrutinizing more carefully the charter school sponsorships of colleges. Supalla responded MnSCU has never been involved in the decisions of institutions to sponsor charter schools in the past, and was not aware of any directive by MnSCU to scrutinize any differently. Wright questioned what role faculty had in the shared governance process to consider charter school sponsorships, adding with the departure of one academic Dean, whether taking on additional responsibilities of a new charter school was appropriate. Supalla confirmed the responsibilities and work load of the Dean is just one factor being considered in making the decision to sponsor or not. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 3 (A) R&R Project – Hansmann shared an update on the R&R Projects, including the Heintz Center Roof Project, moving the HVAC machines inside the buildings, expansion of the West Parking Lot, and repairs to Memorial Hall. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 9 (A) Summer Meetings – Because many faculty are not on campus during the summer, the May and June meetings will be canceled. ACTION: The May and June Faculty Shared Governance Council meetings will be canceled unless pressing issues arise needing immediate attention.

Adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: May 11, 2009 – 2:00 p.m.
Rochester Community and Technical College
Minnesota State College Faculty (MSCF) Faculty Shared Governance Council
SPECIAL CONDENSED MEETING
Minutes for Monday, May 11, 2009 – 2:00 p.m. – Presidents’ Room

Present:  Administration  Bequette, Supalla
          Faculty  Atwood, Guenette, Israelson, Martinez, O’Bryan, Wright (Chair)
          Recorder:  Kingsbury

ITEM 1 (A) Hazardous Waste Training for Faculty – Supalla announced there are several required faculty that have not completed the Hazardous Waste Training, and requested assistance from the Faculty Leadership to encourage them to complete. Supalla emphasized the training is not required of all faculty, but a select group (especially in the sciences).  ACTION:  Bequette and Engelmeyer will compile a list of faculty required to complete the Hazardous Waste Training and share with Wright so an e-mail can be generated at the beginning of Fall Semester.

ITEM 2 (A) Faculty Adjusting Academic Calendar/Personal Leave Days – Supalla announced there continues to be an issue with faculty making individual choices to cancel classes or adjust the academic calendar. Supalla requested assistance from the Faculty Leadership in communicating to faculty the proper steps to follow when a faculty member is not teaching on an assigned teaching day.  ACTION:  Wright agreed to provide whatever assistance necessary to communicate the processes with the faculty.

ITEM 3 (A) STARS Charter School Sponsorship – Supalla announced Administration met with representatives from the proposed Minnesota STARS Online Charter School and District 535 representatives, Superintendent Dallemend and Ann Clark, to share information on a new charter school proposal. During the presentation, Superintendent Dallemend expressed his support of RCTC sponsoring the charter school because it would serve a group of students not currently being served by the local schools. The targeted group includes high risk and home schooled students. Supalla added Missy Hagen would be designated to represent RCTC on their board. Wright questioned whether a sponsorship would require any faculty involvement for accountability purposes. Supalla responded current legislation does not require a lot of accountability, but there is legislation being considered that may change the sponsorship role in the future. Wright indicated the faculty may conduct a survey regarding the faculty’s position on supporting charter schools. O’Bryan added there may be confusion among the faculty on what it means for a student to be co-enrolled and what it means for RCTC to sponsor a charter school; adding a clarification would be important before a survey was actually launched. Supalla concurred, adding the two are not at all related.  ACTION:  Supalla will share a charter school definition with Wright. Should a survey be conducted by the Faculty Leadership, the results will be shared with Supalla.

ITEM 4 (A) Faculty Assistance in Graduate Rates Reporting – Supalla reported that RCTC’s dashboard for Related Employment of Graduates is below the acceptable standard for 2007; hence we are required to submit an explanation to MnSCU on the measures the College will take to increase the rating. Although one rationale for the low rating involves the absence of a Director of Institutional Research during the reporting period, a separate report reflects a college may use three resources to obtain the information: 1) directly from the student; 2) from faculty in the program; or 3) other (which may include employer or a member of the family), and RCTC was at approximately 17% of the responses under the “other” category, considerably higher than any other institution. Supalla announced the College will continue to first obtain as much information as possible directly from the students, but if that is unsuccessful, the Director of Institutional Research will be utilizing the faculty more by requesting their assistance in determining a students’ placement in their field of study. Wright responded the process appeared to be similar to the graduate placement rate process at the former technical college; suggesting that postcards be distributed to students as they leave to request they self-report their employment.  ACTION:  Supalla will share with Weber the suggestion of having faculty distribute postcards to graduating students.

ITEM 1 (F) Morale Task Force – Wright stated a suggestion to form a Morale Task Force was shared by Administration last fall, and questioned the status of establishing the task force. Supalla responded Administration reviewed the list of faculty concerns, but didn’t recall a conversation about forming a task force. Wright stated the faculty are currently conducting surveys on the performance of Hansmann and Weber. Supalla stated he would be conducting annual performance reviewed for his direct reports in the next month, so the information from the faculty survey could not be incorporated into any formal reviews until the following year.  ACTION:  Information Only.

ITEM 2 (F) Candidates Applying for Release Time Positions – Wright requested a list of faculty that applied for assignments with release time associated.  ACTION:  Bequette will compile the list and share with Wright.

Adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:  August 25, 2009 – 2:00 p.m. – AT109