College Crossings

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
Friday, August 24, 2007
Hill Theatre
(Agenda Attached.)

You’re Invited ~ Health Science Center Grand Opening
Join us to celebrate the Grand Opening of the Health Science Center this Friday, August 24th following Staff Development Day activities. The Grand Opening festivities will begin outside at the Amphitheater at 11:45 am. A luncheon will follow the program with tours and demonstrations available in the labs and classrooms.

Parking Permits
Fall 2007 or Annual 2007-2008 Parking Permits are available for purchase in the Cashier's Office. Payroll deduction is available for staff wishing to purchase an annual permit. Anyone purchasing a permit or completing and returning the payroll deduction form by Thursday, 8-23-07 @ 4:30 pm will have their name put in a drawing for a free permit!

Permits and payroll deduction forms will also be available for purchase Friday morning, 8-24-07 outside the Hill Theater prior to Staff Development activities. There will be a drawing at noon for a free permit for anyone purchasing or submitting the payroll deduction application that morning. Permits should be displayed on your vehicle by Tuesday, September 4, 2007.

Retirees Breakfast
The Retirees Breakfast will be held on Tuesday, August 28th at 9am at the Reallife Cooperative (825 Essex Parkway NW). Call Arlouene Olson to RSVP at 282-1594 or albothun@hotmail.com.

Enjoy Your Summer!

Meeting Minutes
Click below:
http://www.rctc.edu/intra/html/meeting_minutes.html
Thank You Notes
Thank you to my RCTC family for your expressions of sympathy. My father would have loved to meet you all. My family appreciated your thoughts and prayers.

~ Jessie Martinez

I want to thank everyone for your prayers, words of sympathy, flowers and memorials in the death of my father. Losing my father so suddenly in a car accident this summer was very difficult. It was so helpful to have my RCTC family there for support.

~ Tammy Lee

Elder Network News
Elder Network is collaborating with the Rochester Senior Center and the Olmsted Senior Advocacy Program to offer: Day Break - A Social Respite Program for 55+ Care receivers. Offered bi-weekly, from 11am-2pm starting September 14th. Please call Elder Network for more information (limited space) at (507) 285-5272. Affordable sliding fee (includes lunch).

Elder Network and the American Cancer Society invite you to the upcoming: Caregiver Prayer & Worship Service with a special blessing for Care receivers on Thursday, November 15th, 2007 at 7:00pm in the Madonna Meadow's Chapel located at 3035 Salem Meadows Drive SW, Rochester, Minnesota. Free of charge.

Condolences
Condolences are extended to Carol Bailey (Psychology Instructor) whose father, Clarence Junker, passed away on Monday, July 30th.

Condolences are also extended to Christine Quinn (WSU Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs) whose mother, Mary Quinn, passed away on Friday, August 17.

Our thoughts are with Carol, Christine and their families.

Global Connection Days
The Multicultural Committee presents the 10th Anniversary of Global Connection Days on October 9-11, 2007. Attached to this week’s Crossings is a calendar of events for those scheduled days. Please use this time to work Global Connections into your syllabus for fall. Our theme this year is Immigration. We hope that we have planned a little something for everyone to enjoy.

We look forward to seeing you this fall! The Multicultural Committee members are: Lillyam Arroyave, Bret Fuller, Jennifer Nisbit, Darlene Voeltz, Annie Clement, Glen Saponari, Beth Heim de Bera and Jason Meier. As always, if you would like to join us with Global Connection Days, please contact us for meeting dates and times.

~ Jennifer L. Nisbit

Crossings Classifieds
For Sale: Dell Latitude D600 laptop, 1.4GHz Pentium M processor, 512MB memory, 60GB HD, CD-RW/DVD Combo Drive, 14.1" display, 56k modem, ethernet LAN, wireless, Windows XP Pro, $425. Contact: Mary Olson at (507) 533-4552.
Supalla’s Scribblings

Just a few minutes on campus and one certainly realizes that summer break’s quickly coming to an end and we’re in the midst of the annual frenzy leading up to the start of fall semester. Enrollment management, admissions, financial aid, cashier’s office, counselors, advisors and others are working feverishly to accommodate a significant number of late registrations. Grounds crew and maintenance staff are working hard to ready the grounds, classrooms and labs for the return of faculty and students. Even with the recent flurry of enrollments, it appears that credits sold will likely decline for the second consecutive year. A more accurate enrollment update will be known once the tenth day MnSCU enrollment numbers are reported.

Watch the Post-Bulletin for a special supplement detailing the opening of the new Health Science Center. Finishing touches are being made to ready the facility for the August 24 grand opening celebration. If you haven’t been on campus recently, you’ll return to find work on the new Regional Stadium project well underway. Heavy earth moving equipment is stripping away the sod in preparation for preparing the base and then installing the artificial turf. Completion of phase one of the project is scheduled for year’s end. While double-shift construction crews are scrabbling to put Heintz Center back together for the start of classes, work will continue throughout the next few months to renovate the second-floor dental facilities.

Minnesota students achieved the highest average ACT score in the nation in 2007. Minnesota’s 2007 graduating seniors who took the ACT earned an average composite score of 22.5 on the college admission and placement exam, higher than last year’s score of 22.3. The average ACT score for the nation is 21.2 out of a possible 36 points. Minnesota has led the nation in average ACT scores for three consecutive years.

Did you know…

➢ 100 percent (52) of RCTC’s Associate Degree Nursing Program students passed the spring semester Board of Nursing exam. RCTC’s program was the only one of 19 AD programs in the state in which all students passed the exam on the first attempt. Although only two RCTC PN students sat for the spring semester Board exam, both students passed. Congratulations to all who had a role in preparing these students for this rigorous exam.

➢ UCR will serve as the new site for the Rochester Vietnamese Language School. The school, held on Saturdays, enrolls several dozen students in a variety of classes. The Vietnamese School joins the Rochester Chinese School students who have been using UCR facilities for their Saturday classes for the past couple of years.

➢ Sara Bunge and Michelle Pyfferone put together a presentation proposal that’s been accepted by the Department of Employment and Economic Development. Sara, along with reps from Anoka Technical College and Inver Hills Community College, will host a round-table discussion regarding e-learning.

➢ The RCTC Foundation awarded $192,340 in 2007-08 scholarships. Currently, 112 scholarship winners are registered fall semester as full-time students and 26 winners are enrolled part-time. In addition, 20 students have graduated but will be receiving $22,200 in scholarships to continue their education at other colleges and universities. Please be generous as the Foundation solicits your help in raising funds to help additional students achieve their higher education dreams. In addition to raising funds to help students cover the high cost of education, the Foundation has embarked on an ambitious goal of raising sponsorships and private donations for completion of the Regional Stadium project.

➢ The mutually supportive and mutually advantageous relationship between Minnesota employers and higher educators is something that ought to come naturally – but too often hasn’t. That backdrop makes notable the election of state Chamber of Commerce President David Olson to chair the governing board of the MnSCU system. No business leader is better positioned to be a bridge builder between entities whose rich collaboration is much to be desired. We hope that’s the role he chooses for himself in his term at MnSCU’s helm.


_We come this way but once. We can either tiptoe through life and hope that we get to death without being too badly bruised, or we can live a full, complete life achieving our goals and realizing our wildest dreams._

— Bob Proctor

~ Don
Rochester Community and Technical College
Minnesota State College Faculty (MSCF) Faculty Shared Governance Council
Minutes for Tuesday, April 24, 2007 – 2:00 p.m. – AT109

Present: Administration Cram, Hansmann, Supalla
Faculty Gust, Marconett, Wright (Chair)
Recorder: Kingsbury
Guests: Arntson

ITEM 1 (F) Faculty Professional Development Funds – Hansmann announced the spreadsheet reflected inaccurate FYE information, but future reports will utilize MnSCU FTE data/numbers (information published on the web). Hansmann added dollars are based on last year’s numbers ($35,115 for FY07 and $63,500 for FY08 – plus carryover funds.)  
ACTION: Hansmann will share information with Atwood.

ITEM 1 (A) Search Process – Arntson reported three faculty searches remain and five have been completed.  
ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 2 (A) Staff Development Day Evaluations – Arntson distributed the survey results, highlighting a theme of wanting to know how the deep dive projects will be used. In addition, several comments expressed a concern with the agenda topics; hence Arntson requested faculty participate on the Staff Development Day Committee to ensure future sessions appeal to the faculty. Supalla shared conflicting comments on the keynote speaker; indicating “education has a different component” and wondered how the comments compared to the surveys from the other Spong sessions presented in the community.  
ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 3 (A) Credentialing Report – Arntson announced the credentialing report will be submitted to MnSCU within the week.  
ACTION: Bequette will share the report with AASC.

ITEM 2 (F) Solve and Dissolve Committees – Wright indicated several groups are operating with no information being shared with the faculty association; and performing work that should be handled by a regular committee. Wright expressed his concern that the creation of solve and dissolves are not showing respect for the shared governance structure. Cram responded some groups are temporary task forces pulled together to investigate problems under a committee. Wright confirmed task forces generated from a committee is acceptable, but Wright shared concerns with solve and dissolves without a committee connection.  
ACTION: Supalla will discuss concerns with Leadership Council and create an inventory of solve and dissolve groups currently in operation.

ITEM 1 (A) Student Success Day Survey Results – Cram announced the survey was completed by approximately 25% of the participants. Wright expressed his concerns that the students that most need the day’s activities are not the ones attending. Cram agreed, adding discussions are underway to capture the “less than motivated” students and improving on the sessions for those that are already successful students.  
ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 2 (A) IPP Update – Hansmann announced the Vice Presidents and Chief Officers have made their recommendations for proposals and the next step is for the Council to review and be prepared to advocate for their programs. Wright expressed his desire to have the faculty participate in the Dean’s review. Hansmann encouraged the faculty to communicate with their Deans during that step of the process. Hansmann also announced the R&R Projects have been ranked by the review committee and the recommendations ($450,000) are being submitted to Leadership Council for approval, adding it is the desire of the committee that any project highly ranked that is not approved have a rationale for the denial.  
ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 7 (A) Legislative Update – Supalla announced preliminary information from the Capitol reflects funding to be better than previous years.  
ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 4 (F) Outstanding Business (b) Memorial Hall Pictures – Hansmann announced the pictures are ready to be hung on the walls, but, because of a concern about the pictures being damaged or stolen; the pictures are all being scanned and filed electronically so they can be easily replaced.  
ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 4 (F) Outstanding Business (c) Cell Phone Repeaters – Hansmann announced Sprint will be doing a walk around to determine which areas have no reception, and will submit a proposal to enhance the communication system. In addition, Hansmann announced an intercom system is being investigated for emergency.  
ACTION: Information Only.

Adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: As Needed (May 29 @ 10:30 am; June 26 @ 2:00 pm)
Rochester Community and Technical College
AFSCME Labor/Management
Minutes for Tuesday, May 8, 2007 - 10:00 a.m. – AT109

Present: Administration: Arntson, Bequette, Cram, Gilsrud, Hansmann, Supalla, Weber
AFSCME: Clark, Edwardy, Lunning, Martin (Business Agent), O’Dea, Tucker
Guest: Monson, Staloch
Recorder: Kingsbury

ITEM 1 (AFSCME) Work Areas (GMW) – Martin clarified if vacant positions are being filled and work areas are changed, a conversation needs to be held with AFSCME prior to the posting. Monson responded it was his intent to bring the employees together as a team, and provide more flexibility for the employees; but agreed to work with AFSCME. Action: After meeting with Tucker and Clark, Monson will bring back work area changes for further discussion.

ITEM 2 (Admin) GroupWise Calendar – Hansmann announced individuals are being asked to place their schedules on the electronic GroupWise calendars to better assist others in scheduling meetings. O’Dea clarified the e-mail announcement stated the employees were required to use the electronic calendar. Martin suggested, if the desire is to have all employees use the electronic calendar, starting out as a pilot with target dates to ensure the employees have adequate training and practice before full implementation. Arntson suggested the supervisors of the employees monitor the training progress to ensure proper training and practice by a targeted date. ACTION: Supervisors will be instructed to follow-up with the employees to ensure all employees are trained and using the GroupWise calendar by August 27, 2007.

ITEM 2 (Admin) Name Tags – Hansmann announced it is desired to have all employees where nametags on campus to identify themselves to the students/public as an employee. Clark noted, however, that many employees work with electrical tools and it may be a safety issue if the nametag is hanging from their shirts; suggesting maintenance employees have their names embroidered on their shirts. Hansmann agreed that embroidering on shirts would be a better option for many employees. Action: Employees who work around equipment may have their names embroidered on their shirts instead of wearing a nametag.

ITEM 3 (Admin) IPP Process – Weber announced preliminary approvals for FY08 budgets have been made, contingent to legislative action and other provisions; and all budget approvals are available for viewing on the internet. Supalla added, also contingent to legislative appropriations, there currently are no layoffs planned. ACTION: Information Only

ITEM 4 (Admin) Construction Update and ITEM 5 (Admin) Asbestos Abatement Update – Hansmann announced the Health Science Center renovation is on schedule; with an anticipated completion date in July, and remodeling of the dental labs at the Heintz Center won’t be completed until December. Supalla added work on the football/soccer field will begin in July, and anticipates a late-November or early December completion. Hansmann added the asbestos abatement should be completed in the Heintz Center “B” Wing in July, but additional time is still needed to re-fit the facilities before school starts. ACTION: Information Only

ITEM 6 (Admin) Search Update – Arntson announced the AFSCME searches include four GMWs, CSS – Senior in Admissions; and OAS in the Customized Training/Workforce. Supalla added the support position for the new Foundation Executive Director was put on hold until the new Director is hired. Hansmann stated the number of positions for the Health Science Center has been increased to two because of changes in square footage from converting the one floor gymnasium into a two story building. ACTION: Information Only

ITEM 9 (Admin) IT Security Training Plans – Arntson announced the online Security Training will be available shortly, and more information is forthcoming to all employees. ACTION: Information Only

ITEM 2 (AFSCME) Lockdown and Evacuations – Martin announced AFSCME has been instructed to report back to MnSCU whenever an evacuation is not occurring during a drill or alarm. Tucker stated some campuses have a PA system to ensure the alarms are heard and announcement of false/tests are made. Cram responded the College is investigating options for a wireless system. Hansmann added all new facilities will be wired for a PA system, and Custom Alarm has been requested to estimate what the costs would be to wire a PA system campus-wide. Martin stated lockdown training is also being conducted at several campuses to ensure employees know what process to follow. Supalla replied the policies are currently being reviewed and communicated to all employees, and discussions are underway to coordinate a drill on campus. Action: Administration will continue to work with the County and develop lockdown and drill training on campus.

Adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: September 21, 2007 – 9:00 a.m. – AT109