Student Change of Address

Did you know that a large portion of RCTC students have an address change between the time their application is submitted to the time when classes begin? It is important for students to keep their mailing addresses current in order to receive essential college communications. Keeping addresses current also helps us all by lowering costs of returned mail and re-sent mail.

Most of us come in contact with students in one way or another either in the classroom, one-on-one meetings, receiving forms and more. Your help is needed by asking, or make an announcement in class, if a student has had a recent address change in the past few months. Advise students to change their information with Admissions and Records by stopping by to pick up a form or even going on-line to change their address at: http://www.rctc.edu/webportal

Welcome Week Thank You

Now that we have all made it through the hectic beginning of Fall Semester, a huge thank you goes out the many people who contributed during Welcome Week by helping greet students, distributing student handbooks, giving directions and other behind-the-scene projects: Jay Lee; Michelle Messenger; Judy Gust; Don Baldus; Gloria Dockter; Ivonne TjoeFat; Ruth Siefert; Nancy Shumaker; Nirmala Kotogal; Jennifer Rubin; Anna Pingree; Lori Wright; Annie Clement; Rae Gravenish; Janet Finlayson; Almae Larson; Don Supalla; Stan Cram; Scott Sahs; Missy Hagen; Steve Higgins; Student Senate; Carol Nurni; Mona Permann; Alex Kromminga; Julie Christie; Kimberly Rowley; Deb Rogne; Roxy Roadway; Jon Krusmark and Jenee McGurren.

Meeting Minutes

Click below:
http://www.rctc.edu/intra/html/meeting_minutes.html

Student Success Day/Homecoming

"Go the Distance" and help promote the Student Success Day and Homecoming Event. Decorate your office window or door with the theme, "Go the Distance." See the attached flyer - enter and win a pizza and soda lunch from Taher for you and your decorating team!
Marketing Fact


Voter Registration

Our greatest duty as citizens in a democracy is exercising our right to vote. Likewise, in carrying a large portion of our citizens into adulthood, colleges and universities have a basic responsibility to encourage participation in the electoral process. The impact of midterm elections can have long-term effects on the direction of our country especially in this pivotal congressional election year. Without the awareness and excitement a presidential election brings, your efforts to encourage students to register and vote are even more important since historically, about one in four college students show up at the polls.

Voter Registration Cards will be available in the following areas on campus:

- Information Desk
- Admission/Records
- Cashier’s Office
- Counseling
- Library
- Financial Aid
- President’s/Vice
- President’s Office (SS202)

A PDF of the voter registration form can be found at: http://www.sos.state.mn.us/home/index.asp?page=204

To Save Students’ Time and Postage,

RCTC will deliver their COMPLETED card directly to the County Auditor’s Office if submitted to the Office of the Vice President of Student Development and Services located in SS202.

VOTER REGISTRATION MAIL-IN DEADLINE:

Students must register to vote 20 days before the election or on Election Day at the polls on November 7, 2006.
Supalla Scribblings

Since the official drop/add period for fall semester is over, the best comparison for enrollment numbers is the fifth day of term this year compared to the tenth day in prior years. In a nutshell, here’s how this fall’s numbers stack up with those of the previous two years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Headcount</th>
<th>Percent +/-</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Percent +/-</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>5,842</td>
<td>-2.65%</td>
<td>62,030</td>
<td>-3.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>6,001</td>
<td>+3.29%</td>
<td>64,082</td>
<td>+0.31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>5,810</td>
<td></td>
<td>63,885</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Retention of current students…doing whatever we can to assure they register for spring semester courses…is critical. If you have suggestions for additional sections of classes, mid-term starts or new offerings, please share your ideas with an academic dean or Mike Bequest as soon as possible. If you, students or prospective students are looking for the most current available schedule information, always go to www.rctc.edu/catalog.

Did you know…

- MnSCU has adopted SAT’s Accuplacer as the official course placement assessment instrument. RCTC is one of only three colleges using the COMPASS assessment and will be converting to Accuplacer soon to meet the July 1, 2007 conversion deadline.
- The University of Minnesota Duluth is expanding its presence in Rochester. Working with UMR and RCTC, UMD’s School of Fine Arts will offer bachelor degree programs in graphic design and art and technology. Students in the program will take the first two years of classes from RCTC, the last two years from UMD. UMD hired full- and part time instructors to teach the fine arts programs at Rochester. Duluth faculty will do some of the instruction via ITV.
- The Minnesota Department of Education and the Minnesota Office of Higher Education released new data showing a nearly 20 percent increase in the number of Minnesota high school students taking Advanced Placement test. While participation increased, the data show an 18 percent increase in the number of students scoring a “3” or higher on their exams, which is the cut score used by most colleges to award college credit to new students. The Advanced Placement program provides high school students with the opportunity to take college-level courses in a high school setting.
- GRAUC has changed its name from the Greater Rochester Area University Center to Greater Rochester Advocates for Universities and Colleges. GRAUC’s mission is to serve as the leading advocate for advancing innovation, growth, and excellence of public higher education in the greater Rochester area to serve the community, its students, and its employers. GRAUC’s vision is focused on innovation, growth, and excellence.
- Congratulations to Steve Bein, whose story “Datacide” will by read by SUNY -- Genesco students as part of an anthology with other authors as Wells, Asimov and Niven. Way to go, Steve!
- RCTC’s equestrian program was featured in the August edition of “Perfect Horse.” The article includes numerous quotes by Pam Whitfield and photos of Julie Christie and RCTC students.
- The Rochester Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors voted unanimously to support both Rochester School District’s referendum questions which will be on the November ballot. Question #1 seeks renewal of the three operating referendums currently in place and set to expire on December 31, 2007. Question #2 seeks to add $200 per pupil unit to the current referendum. The net impact on the average $150,000 home will be $54.51 per year.

The St. Paul Pioneer Press recently ran an opinion piece, “The Silent Addiction on College Campuses,” written by Jon Quistgaard, President of Bemidji State University. If excerpts from the article cause you to want to read the entire piece, simply click on:


More than 40,000 Minnesota high school graduates from the class of 2006 will be entering colleges or universities. For many, this will be their first extended time away from home, which means greater freedom and greater risks from such age-old temptations as alcohol. And now, there’s a new threat on campuses – gambling. The pastime has been around for centuries, but only recently has recreational gambling taken significant hold on college campuses, sometimes with devastating consequences. A recent pilot project at Bemidji State University found 92 percent of students said at least a few of their friends gamble; more than a third said they know someone who has a gambling problem; and one out of 20 has borrowed money to gamble or pay gambling debts. One-quarter of the nation’s nearly 16 million college students gamble, according to the National Council on Problem Gambling. A 2005 Harvard study as reported that the rate of college students with gambling problems is nearly three times that for adults. In 1973, only one state had legalized gambling: today, 48 states have legalized gambling in some form. The media have also glamorized gambling, portraying it as an entertaining, in-vogue activity. Students who go beyond recreational gambling and become problem gamblers need help. When Harvard researchers last year concluded the first national study of drinking- and gambling-related rulemaking on college campuses, they found that all surveyed schools had a student alcohol-use policy, yet only 22 percent had gambling guidelines. We as parents, taxpayers and educators, have a great deal invested in these young people. Let’s protect that investment and raise awareness of the risks involved so they don’t gamble away a potentially promising future.

Thought for the Week…

“A good listener is not only popular everywhere, but after a while, he gets to know something.”

American Screenwriter Wilson Mizner

Practice good listening!

Don
Educational Technology News
The Department of Educational Technology is excited to welcome everyone back to RCTC, and to share some news regarding our services. We continue to seek new and innovative ways of supporting the use of technology in learning and utilize solutions that enhance this mission. One of the valuable investments RCTC has made is with Turnitin.com Plagiarism Software (http://www.turnitin.com).
Starting this fall, every instructor and students at the college will be able to submit electronic papers and have them verified for originality. They are analyzed against public websites and other institutions, as well as our own internal database. A comprehensive report is then generated showing if there are any questionable portions, with links showing the source. Instructors can set their accounts up in 3 different ways as desired: all students can submit to a class folder, students can submit their own papers independently, or the instructor can decide which papers to send and upload themselves. You should have received an email from Turnitin showing your user name and initial password, so please be watching for it.

We are also excited to announce the availability of Smarthinking online tutoring. (http://www.smarthinking.com). This 24/7 resource is now available to all students and faculty at RCTC, in partnership with our existing tutoring center. Individuals will be able to obtain help in a variety of areas including science, math, writing, economics, and foreign languages. This will help extend the hours when tutoring is available at RCTC, as well as provide a method for online students to receive similar services. You can access the website through D2L (where students will be setting up their accounts) and we encourage instructors to let their students know about Smarthinking. Every student will have a bank of 10 hours of free tutoring, and with additional hours provided by a MnSCU contract, we can accommodate special circumstances.

Finally, we will be conducting a one year pilot of the RightNow system used by many other MnSCU institutions and the statewide D2L Helpdesk. RightNow Technologies is a leading provider of on demand Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software solutions, which enables users to provide quality service across all communication channels, improve student recruiting and retention, reduce operating costs and enhance collaboration among a geographically dispersed staff. MnSCU originally deployed RightNow in its IT department and now enables Minnesota Online’s more than 30,000 students to use the Internet to get answers to their questions and provides program managers and instructors with full visibility into those issues, so they can take appropriate measures to optimize students’ distance learning experience.

Educational Technology is also continuing to find ways of serving student and faculty needs better. We hope that you will visit our website http://www.roch.edu/dept/et often for news and updates. We have added a live chat tool, helpful links, tutorials, and are planning to announce text messaging options and a department newsletter soon. Please take some time to also check our department blog at http://rctcet.blogspot.com, as we will communicate regularly about educational technology and related issues. As always, we continue to offer one on one help, project assistance, training sessions throughout the year, and informational sessions. We look forward to working with everyone in the coming year, and hope you have a great start this fall. Please let us know if you have questions or comments, and thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm.

Scott Sahs
Director of Educational Technology
Rochester Community and Technical College
Minnesota State College Faculty (MSCF) Faculty Shared Governance Council
Minutes for Tuesday, August 22, 2006 – 2:00 p.m. – AT109

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

ITEM 6 (A) Comment Card – Weber announced the Comment Card website is operational and encouraged the faculty to visit it at www.rctc.edu/commentcard. In addition, business cards with the Comment Card information are available throughout the College. Supalla shared information on the three comments received to-date through the process (parking concern, phone concern, and a support services compliment.) ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 1 (A) Search Process – Arntson outlined the revisions to the Search Process, noting she will become involved earlier in the screening process for semi-finalist candidates. ACTION: Faculty support the recommended revisions to the Search Process.

ITEM 2 (A) Telecommuting Policy Feedback – Arntson requested feedback from the faculty on the draft policy. Wright requested additional time to review the policy with the faculty. ACTION: Arntson will e-mail the draft policy to the members of FSGC and Wright will forward to the Distance Education Subcommittee for review.

ITEM 3 (A) Faculty Emeritus Follow-up – Bequette and Wright indicated they have briefly discussed the proposal and both agree to the implementation, but further discussions are needed to work out the details. Specific questions include: should there be a limit to the number of nominations per year; should a subcommittee make the decisions; is there a minimum number of years of service required; and should the service eligibility include time worked at RCTC and MnSCU. ACTION: Wright and Bequette will further visit on the specifics and procedures will be established after the policy is finalized.

ITEM 4 (A) Faculty Credentialing SAD Report – Bequette announced a group of individuals have been meeting over the summer to review the MnSCU Board Policy and System Procedures governing credentialing, and the sub group has prepared a draft RCTC statement of policy/procedures for review. Wright stated that because the draft came with the approval of AASC, that the faculty will support the draft policy and procedure. ACTION: Bequette will forward the draft policy/procedures to Kingsbury for formatting, and Kingsbury will forward the re-formatted document to Wright.

ITEM 5 (A) Construction Update and ITEM 1 (F) Update on Building Process and Parking – Hansmann announced the majority of construction projects are on schedule, with the exception of the primary care and dental clinic. Hansmann also announced Premier Security has been hired to assist in directing traffic the first couple of week of classes. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 1 (F) Update on Drop for Non-Payment – Hansmann and Supalla announced some students re-registered after the first drop for non-payment, and thanked the faculty for their assistance in monitoring the class rosters. The next drop for non-payment will occur after the fifth day. Supalla stated enrollment and FYE are down both locally and System-wide, but final numbers are not yet available. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 3 (F) Voter Registration – Wright requested a voter registration campaign be held prior to the primaries in September. Cram responded Student Life is working with the League of Women Voters to get information out to students and employees. Hansmann also announced the UCR Regional Sports Center will be a precinct polling location. ACTION: Cram will follow-up with the Student Life Director on the Voter Registration Campaign.

ITEM 4 (F) Cell Phone Repeaters – Wright reminded Administration that discussions were held last year with regard to safety issues and the need for cell phone signals in the classrooms. Wright requested repeaters be placed throughout the building. ACTION: Hansmann will work with Gilsrud to determine equipment needs for repeaters.

Adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: September 26, 2006 – 2:00pm – AT109