Combined Charities Campaign Fundraiser

Enjoy a slice of pie (South Room) from 12:00 noon on Monday, October 18th until gone as part of the Combined Charities Campaign Drive. Cost is $3.00 (Taher is donating the plates and forks). ALL MONEY will be donated to the campaign and the check will be divided between charities. To make an individual donation for a certain charity, please do that on-line. We Want Everyone To Know That State Employees Do Care About Minnesota. If you need any help with this process, call Rose Conway at x7260.

Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society
Fall Induction Ceremony - Honoring New Members

Tuesday, October 19th from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
University Center Rochester - College Center/Cafeteria
All are welcome!

Assessment of Student Learning Committee Meeting - AGENDA
Tuesday, October 26, 2004 from 2:00 -3:00 p.m.
in AT-102 Conference Room

- Member pictures for the web site
- Review member responsibilities (fill vacant months)
- Overview 2004-2005 ASL Plan
  - Strategy 1: Assess student learning at the program/department level
    Activity Steps:
    #1 Facilitate completion of the ASL matrix
    (departments/programs undergoing curriculum review FY05)
    #2 Fifth Tuesday, November 30, 2004 (brown bag ASL forum)
    #3 Develop Power Point Training module
- Preview ASL Draft Training Module
  - Review ASL Documentation Process (Draft #2)
  - Draft schedule to meet with department/programs under review Spring ‘05 (DH, History, Digital Arts, Health, Electronics, MTS, Business, HUC, Humanities, Horticulture, Journalism)
- Discuss Fifth Tuesday ASL Session, Tuesday, November 30, 2004
**Marketing Fact**

According to Measuring Up 2004: The National Report Card on Higher Education, Minnesota's greatest strength regarding participation in higher education is that "over the past decade, the likelihood of 9th graders enrolling in college within four years has increased substantially—one of the steepest increases in the nation." However, Minnesota has "a fairly low percentage of working-age adults...enrolled part-time in college-level education or training." Furthermore, "over the past decade, the gap in college participation between whites and minority ethnic groups has widened."

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**Festival of Giving - Tickets available NOW!**

RCTC Upward Bound is now selling tickets to *A Festival of Giving*, a private evening of holiday shopping at Apache Mall, which will take place on Sunday, November 21, 2004 from 7:00 to 10:00 pm. This special event for ticket-holders only will feature special offers and discounts from Apache Mall merchants as well as beverages and hors d’oeuvres, door prizes, and live holiday entertainment. Tickets for *A Festival of Giving* are $5 each and available from Deb in SSSP or from an Upward Bound staff person in HA 116. Ticket sales will continue through Thursday, November 18, 2004 so purchase a ticket today, help the Upward Bound Scholarship Fund, and get a jump-start on your holiday shopping. Alternatively, just come and enjoy the evening festivities.

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**Crossings Classifieds**

**FOR SALE:** 4 or 6 person hot tub. Works great, feels good on those cool nights! Comes with privacy fencing and insulated cover. Heater was replaced this past spring; includes all the chemicals and directions. Asking $350, you haul. Call Mona Permann, x5512 or 529-1451.

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"And that wraps it up for today’s headlines. For a preview of what’s happening tomorrow, here’s Cassandra..."
Supalla’s Scribblings

With the last national debate behind us, our own “Meet the Candidate Forums” over, and many local candidate debates concluded, campaigners will sprint to the November 2 election. Both national and state legislation during the upcoming session will impact public higher education. I urge you to study where the candidates stand on issues of importance, take advantage of opportunities to meet and question those running for office, and vote.

Wednesday I had the pleasure of participating in “Teaching At Risk: A Call to Action” luncheon presentation by Governor Pawlenty and Lou Gerstner, Jr., former Chairman of IBM and Chair of the Teaching Commission. Using the Teaching Commission report as a guide, Governor Pawlenty and Mr. Gerstner announced that Minnesota is the first of several pilot states to embrace the Commission’s recommendations and embark on a series of initiatives to improve the quality of teaching in our state. More information and a copy of the full report are available at http://www.theteachingcommission.org.

“What we have to offer in Minnesota is an educated population that works hard.” - Retired superintendent of South St. Paul Public Schools and current chairperson of the University of Minnesota Board of Regents. That was the opening line in a recently distributed paper, “The Competitive Edge: What is it? How did we get it?” that was mailed to community leaders this week. In part, it goes on to say…

Competition is everywhere. As a state, we compete for businesses and residents and for the honors and reputation that draw them here. Minnesotan’s have a history of investing in our overall quality of life, and Minnesota has been named the most livable state for an unprecedented seven years in a row (Morgan Quitno Press). Unfortunately, our seven-year reign ended in 2004 when more than 40 criteria were considered, including: expenditures for education as a percent of all state and local expenditures; student/teacher ratios in public schools; high school graduates and graduation rates; job growth; personal earnings; and the percent of the population that has higher education degrees. Losing this honor does not mean our state has begun a downward spiral, but it is one red flag among others that suggests we need to be cautious about reducing our commitment to Minnesota’s social, academic and economic future. According to historical recognition by such prestigious organizations as Fortune Magazine, Money Magazine and the United Way of America, our competitive edge is our quality of life, including our system of public education and our well-prepared work force.

¾ Minnesota has one of the best educational systems in the country, and boasts low dropout rates, high graduation rates, and a highly educated work force.
¾ Minnesota ranks second among the 50 states in preparing students for college, getting them into college, and seeing students graduate.
¾ Minnesota’s per capita income was eighth highest among the 50 states; however, our total state and local spending per K-12 student ranked 22nd.
¾ In 2003, Minnesota paid 12 percent less for each student from kindergarten through high school in real, inflation-adjusted dollars than in 1990.
¾ Minnesota’s student-teacher ratio ranks 38th among the 50 states.
¾ The average public school teacher’s salary in Minnesota was about $1300 below the national average.
¾ Most public employees in Minnesota are not faring as well economically as the state’s private sector workers or government employees nationwide.
¾ Cities, counties and public schools in Minnesota lost nearly $1 billion in state funding over the biennium.


Kudos, ovations and hats off…
¾ Thanks to Grace Lumboy, RCTC student and Minnesota Campus Compact Fellow, for coordinating two-days of “Get Out the Vote” activities in the Atrium this week. Several of the candidates told me how pleased they were with the opportunity to dialogue with voters and impressed they were with the voter registration opportunity.
A photo of Gregg Wright’s smiling face while a delegate at the Democratic National Convention appeared in the October issue of AFT On Campus.

Lillyam Arroyave deserves a standing ovation for coordinating the best ever Global Connection Days. Thanks much, Lillyam! Some pictures from the day are shown below.

William Mitchell College of Law recently announced the appointment of Dan Thompson as Dean of Students Affairs and Student Life. Dan was the Vice President of Student Affairs at RCTC.

Chancellor McCormick sent a letter of thanks to Tom Ostrom for allowing MnSCU to include his new book, The United States Coast Guard 1790 to the Present, to be placed on the shelves of the bookcase at the System Office especially designed for the display of works by system faculty, staff, alumni and students.

Special thanks to Rose Conway for coordinating RCTC’s 2004 Combined Charities Campaign that runs from October 11-29. All pledges and one-time gifts are tax deductible. This year’s statewide goal is $1 million. If you want more information check out https://www.doer.state.mn.us/charities/index.htm. Please give generously.

Thought for the Week…

What the vast majority of American children need is to stop being pampered, stop being indulged, stop being chauffeured, stop being catered to. In the final analysis it is not what you do for your children but what you have taught them to do for themselves that will make them successful human beings.”

- Ann Landers

I suspect that we’re all looking forward to next week’s less hectic three-day student contact week. Enjoy!

Don
Academic Affairs and Standards Council Minutes
September 14, 2004
UCR Alumni Room, 2:00 p.m.

Present:  M Bequette, T Brown, M Callister, C Fiegel, J Kehoe, J Lee, B Mollberg, V Olson, K Olson, T Soltau

Absent:  J Dahl, T Hosier

Recorder:  R Splittstoesser

Chair, Jim Kehoe, called the meeting to order at 2:00p.m.

I.  Housekeeping

A.  Membership – After introductions, the faculty on the committee were reaffirmed (Brown, Fiegel, Kehoe, V.Olson, K. Olson, Soltau, Dahl, Hosier) as well as the administration (Bequette, two deans [some combination of Lee, Mollberg and Kotagal] and Callister.

B.  Operating Rules – The Council reviewed the operating rules, and agreed to affirm the following statement of purpose:  to promote the development and sustained excellence of learning at the College.  The altered agenda format, if deemed unworkable, can be changed at any time.  Mike and Jim will meet in advance of the monthly council meeting to set the agenda.

II.  Approval of Minutes – This action may be mostly pro forma, given the review of minutes provided by Jim and Mike.  The Council agreed to add another standing item—“Additions to the Agenda”—for new issues that the Council wants to add at the last minute.  For today’s agenda, an item “J” was added:  “Improving classrooms.”

III.  Academic Standards Issues

A.  Loading Prerequisites into Registration System - This issue has been a difficult one that both faculty and administration wish to solve.  The solution at present will not come from MnSCU and ISRS, so energy needs to be spent on a workaround of some kind.  Jim and Mike have suggested a team from RCTC visiting Normandale Community College to study the solution this college believes it has developed.  Mike, ViAnn Olson and Troy Tynsky will make this visit on Friday, September 24, to determine whether Normandale’s approach would work for us.

B.  MNTC Goal Completion on Transcripts - Having agreed that a notation on the transcripts of RCTC students indicating MNTC goals completion would be useful for transfer efforts, the Council requested Mike to discuss this matter at RCTC Cabinet/Council to determine the College’s willingness to commit to such a project.  This information is available on DARS documentation, an unofficial document.  Though the system-wide work on a common transcript is not yet at this level, RCTC’s efforts might be a model for other institutions and MnSCU to consider.

C.  Accurate Course Inventory – The need to have an accurate inventory of RCTC courses is important.  The Council agreed that some systematic effort should be taken to remove from the inventory courses which have not been offered successful in the last six years.  Mike will generate a list at the beginning of each year of such classes, beginning this year, and appropriate program leaders can make a case through this Council of any on the list not being deleted from the active inventory.  Jim will discuss this proposal with faculty one more.

   (Although this discussion occurred later in the meeting, it should appropriately be included here).  Related course inventory problem:  BU 1671 is on the program sheet for Building Utilities Mechanics but will not actually be taught until Spring 2005; consequently, students up for graduation at present will have to petition to have the course waived.  Jay will work with appropriate faculty and staff to do a single petition to the academic standards subcommittee on behalf of these students.

D.  Concurrent Enrollment - Mike proposed that, in accordance with existing PSEO guidelines, faculty oversight of Concurrent Enrollment (college classes taught in the high schools by approved high school faculty) be established to insure a) the proper identification of all such new ventures in the high schools, and b) the ongoing quality of existing involvements.  Jim suggested rather that a short-term committee be established to consider the growth of Concurrent Enrollment.  This latter strategy will be followed, with a group of 2-4 faculty (including former MCCFA and UTCE faculty represented if at all possible) and appropriate administrators being formed.

E.  Catalog Publication – The College is considering the publication of an official catalog published twice a year, in the fall and spring, as both an electronic version, and as a small number of paper copies to be printed for internal use.  In addition, there would be what might be called a “dynamic electronic catalog” which would be updated on a regular monthly cycle that reflected all the academic curriculum and standards changes approved by AASC.  Jim will discuss these matters with faculty in the next several weeks.

F.  Visible and “Invisible” Prerequisites – Council agreed that program descriptions should honestly reflect all course prerequisites that are needed.  In a related discussion, the Council also agreed that all courses in the our inventory should be re-examined now to determine
G. which if any of the developmental reading, English, and/or math courses are essential prerequisites. This re-examination will be essential for the ISRS workaround for prerequisite checking (see item A above), and could conducted under the leadership of faculty coordinators and leaders.

H. Manufacturing Technology Specialist Advisement Guide – This guide sheet was examined as a sample of inaccurate information that is available to students. It may be that our UCR partners are developing some of these materials. Effort must be taken to eliminate these unofficial materials, and well as approved but out-of-date advisement guides. Mike will bring concerns about the former to the attention of the partners; Rachelle already has a meeting scheduled of appropriate staff to discuss the latter. Jay Lee identified himself as program leader and will submit a revision proposal to AASC.

I. Success Rate in PSEO – The Council is interested in knowing how we are doing with PSEO since early data suggested RCTC’s success rate was low. The data considerations sought include the following:
   - F/W/I information on PSEO students compared to non-PSEO
   - F/W/I information on PSEO students disaggregated by course
   - F/W/I information on first semester PSEO students compared with returning PSEO
   - Number of credits attempted compared semester by semester for the last 4 years
   - Separate information for track A and track B PSEO students.
Mike will seek assistance from appropriate staff to gather the information.

J. Archiving old syllabi – Council concurred that archiving old syllabi will begin this year. To improve collection of syllabi, Tim Gilisrud has been asked if the security parameters can be altered so that everyone can view the title of each syllabus file, rather than have the folder on the J drive appear entirely empty to any unauthorized personnel who examine it. Syllabi will at all times be treated as intellectual property.

K. Improving classrooms – The purpose of this added agenda item was to determine faculty interest in assembling a Solve and Dissolve (SAD) committee to identify the five most dysfunctional classrooms in the UCR. Mike would use this information to help prioritize building improvements. The Council voiced interest, and Jim will take appropriate steps to get members identified.

IV. Curriculum

A. Law Enforcement – The locally approved AAS degree has not been submitted to MnSCU. Additionally, the AS articulation with Mankato State still hasn’t been completed. Jay will discuss these problems with Brian Watters.

2003-2004 Carry-Over Proposals

B. Proposal 117, Sports Management and Facility Administration, A.A.S. degree, new program – Action: Tabled due to pending course proposals.

C. Proposal 118, Sports Management and Facility Administration, Diploma degree, new program – Action: Tabled due to pending course proposals.

D. Proposal 119, PSYC 2622, Abnormal Psychology, new course – Action: Tabled due to resolution of duplication issues with other existing Human Services and upper division WSU courses.

E. Proposal 124, HUM 1941, Leadership Development, new course – Concerns regarding duplication of SMGT courses were resolved over the summer and a revised common course outline has been submitted. As a revised outline was submitted, this Proposal will be numbered 124A and the correct title is Studies in Leadership. Action: Approved.

2004-2005 Proposals

F. Proposal 1, Retail Merchandising AS and Retail Merchandising Interior Decorating AS, program revisions – Action: Tabled pending clarification of questions related to correlation of articulation agreements with program sheets.

G. Proposal 2, Pre-Dentistry, A.A. Liberal Arts & Science, new transfer guide – Action: Approved with the following modifications: 1) PHYS does not belong under in math but should be moved under science; and 2) PHYS 1107 and 1108 do not meet MNTC and should be listed at the bottom of the guide under other, i.e. similar to other transfer guides. The implementation date will be Spring 2005 and revision date will be 09/14/2004.

H. Proposal 3, Military Credit Policy/Procedure, new policy - Action: Approved with immediate implementation and with new revised date of 09/14/04. Jay asked to be on record opposing this new policy. He will forward ACEs books to Greg Wright.

V. Other Business
A. Curriculum Review: Computer Science (COMP) - This review will be postponed until next semester to give adequate time for the new full time faculty in the area to prepare appropriately.

B. Deletion of MNTC listings – This issue has been resolved and the correct information is now listed on MNTC.

C. Announcements – Although B Mollerg had noted earlier in the meeting that she would be hosting meetings for investigating the possibility for a mass communications degree, the detail of the dialogue was moved under this agenda item. She further stated that the previously approved database specialist program was not approved by MnSCU. Development of an Associate of Fine Arts (AFA) program is expected and will require an articulation agreement. Plans for an online Associate of Arts degree are also in progress. The effects of all new programs on existing programs will need to be considered.

VI. Critique – Possibly restrict the number of Academic Standards issues included on each agenda.

VII. Confirmation of Next Meeting Date – Tuesday, October 12th.

VIII. Confirmation of Work to Be Done Before Next Meeting – The following items were noted as requiring action prior to the next meeting:

- Item III. B. M Bequette will discuss the addition of a goal completion statement on student transcripts with Academic Leadership.
- Item III. C. J Kehoe will discuss a beginning of the year review of course inventory with faculty.
- Item III. D. J Kehoe will have G Wright forward faculty names for the concurrent enrollment committee.
- Item III. E. J Kehoe will share catalog preparation plans with faculty. M Bequette will confirm agreement with Leadership Council.
- Item III. F. J Kehoe will discuss the benefit of a review of all prerequisites with faculty.
- Item III. G. M Bequette will discuss program sheet accuracy with the University of Minnesota administration.
- Item III. H. M Bequette will follow up on PSEO parameters.
- Item III. I. Past syllabi will be archived by the Vice President of Teaching and Learning office as agreed.
- Item III. J. J Kehoe will have G Wright forward faculty names for the dysfunctional classroom committee.
- Item IV. A. J Lee will follow up on the status of the new program application for the Law Enforcement AAS degree and the related articulation agreement.

The meeting adjourned at 3:58p.m.