March 15, 2004
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SPRING SEMESTER EDITION

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Event Schedule – see web
R25

Attachments
❖ None

Employee Recognition – March 2004
Congratulations to Sue Edwardy and Maureen Welder for being named RCTC’s Best Bees of the Month for March 2004!!!

Maureen and Sue do such a wonderful job and truly work together as a team. It’s great to know we can consistently depend on them for a professional job.

Maureen is the Coordinator for Duplicating Services. Maureen has worked at RCTC for 29 years. Maureen is one of those quiet people behind the scenes, but without her attitude and work ethic, teaching & learning would not be a smooth course at RCTC. A faculty member stated that in the five years as a RCTC faculty member, “Maureen has saved my neck a number of times, making copies at the last minute and accommodating special requests.” Her helpful attitude towards the faculty transfers to the students we serve at RCTC.

Sue works in Duplicating Services and for the Information Technology department. Sue has worked at RCTC for 10 years. Over the years she has worked in the financial aid office and in the continuing education and customized training area.

Thank you, Maureen and Sue and congratulations on being named the “Best Bees of the Month”! Maureen and Sue will enjoy a pizza party and will receive the “up front” parking space for the month of March at the UCR campus.

AASC Meetings
Here are the locations for the remaining AASC meetings. Note the change in location from Heintz Center to UCR for the March meeting, due to changing the date/day from Tue, March 9th to Thur, March 18th.

Thursday, March 18th - UCR Alumni Rm

Tuesday, April 13th - HC 116

Tuesday, May 11th - UCR Alumni Rm
Weekly Stakeholder and Market Fact

The Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) has established five national benchmarks. The third benchmark is called Student Effort.

This is defined by the following statement: Students' own behaviors contribute significantly to their learning and the likelihood that they will successfully attain their educational goals. "Time on task" is a key variable, and there are a variety of settings and means through which students may apply themselves to the learning process.

RCTC's composite score for this benchmark is 51.4. The composite includes a series of questions in the survey that link to academic challenge. The higher the score the better. The national benchmark is 50.0. The benchmark for other medium size institutions is 50.5. RCTC is performing above the national norm for this benchmark.

Thank You

I want to thank my colleagues at RCTC for the beautiful flowers and cards that I received during my recent hospital stay. They definitely lift my spirits. I hope to be back to work soon. Thanks.

- Sue Sundlee

Congratulations!


In addition, the teaching career of Peter was recently profiled in the 2004 edition of Who's Who in America, a major biographical dictionary of prominent men and women in the United States.

Baby Girls!

Congratulations to Pam and Alex Whitfield who are the proud parents of a new baby girl. Morgan Carly Guo, was born on Thursday, February 12, weighing in at 7 lbs. 6 oz. and was 20 1/4 inches long.

Congratulations also to Tim Gilsrud on the arrival of a new granddaughter. Alayna Grace was born on Sunday (February 29) weighing in at 7 lbs. 11 oz, and 19 1/2 inches long.
Supalla’s Scribblings

RCTC had another productive week in St. Paul. On Tuesday, the Senate Higher Education Committee scheduled a hearing on the Health Science renovation project. Senator Kiscaden, Nirmala Kotagal and Tim Gaspar, WSU Dean of Nursing and Health Sciences, shared a project overview and responded to questions. The project has great support in the Senate, was moved from #24 to #15 on the MnSCU list by the House Higher Education Committee, and is now being discussed in the House Capital Investment Committee. Following the hearing, Marilyn Hansmann joined Mayor Brede, city staff, local legislators, and me at a meeting with Commissioner Merriam and DNR staff as we discussed the public sale of two parcels of property adjacent to UCR and Quarry Hill. The DNR agreed to pull the property from public sale and work with the City and MnSCU/RCTC to keep the property under local control. Legislative attempts to change the sales tax language to expand how the UCR co-developed funds can be spent continues to move forward. However, language to extend the tax to generate an additional $40 million ($8 for UCR projects) is finding less favorable support. As the session moves toward conclusion, activity in St. Paul moves ever more quickly. I encourage you to keep informed of legislation that impacts MnSCU, RCTC, and Rochester via the media and MnSCU/Legislative Web pages. Don’t hesitate to contact House and Senate representatives and urge them to support proposals that invest in higher education.

While at the Senate hearing, we listened as Chancellor McCormick testified in opposition to Senator Kleis’s bill to allow MnSCU institutions to, having met certain conditions, remove themselves from the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System. The Chancellor reminded the Committee of what’s been accomplished in the past eight years. Because of they way MnSCU is organized…

- Demand is at an all-time high…MnSCU serves 240,000 students in credit-based courses and another 130,000 in non-credit offerings
- Much progress has been made in making it easier for students to transfer from one institution to another
- Taxpayer dollars have been saved by providing services centrally that would be expensive to duplicate on every campus
- At a time when enrollment has been growing, system employment has been declining…from 2002 to 2003, the number of employees system wide was reduced by 700
- Sound financial practices resulted in the System receiving unqualified clean financial audit opinions
- New educational offerings have been initiated more quickly and efficiently…in the past four years, e-learning opportunities have expanded dramatically

Chancellor McCormick concluded his remarks by stating, “As a system, we can do more together than any of us could do alone. In my opinion, the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System is properly aligned to meet the needs of the fast-changing 21st century.”

RCTC’s student newspaper, The Echo, received honorable mention at the Associated Collegiate Press “Best of the Midwest” conference in Minneapolis recently. The award recognized overall excellence for newspapers at two-year colleges. Congratulations to Editor Lindsay Borgesen and Advisor Megan Malugani. The Echo is always on the lookout for new writers and editors. Please encourage interested students to pick up an application in The Echo Office (MH213).

Recent conversations between the national Peace Corps and the American Association of Community Colleges has led to the development of a resolution to work more closely together. RCTC was proud to be selected as one of three national news conference sites to announce the new alliance. The Peace Corps is not changing its policy, rather it is stepping up its recruiting efforts, particularly those aimed at two-year college graduates with specific degrees in areas...
of need. Jody Olsen, Deputy Director of the Corps, was at UCR to present plagues to MnSCU and RCTC for work already done to encourage students to join the Peace Corps and entice students, particularly graduates of nursing, allied health, computer science, business, and horticulture programs to consider this wonderful form of public service.

The high school diploma is no longer a good indicator of whether students are ready for college or work, and American schools should implement higher standards for high school graduation, according to a new report from a coalition of education groups. Employers and postsecondary institutions see the high school diploma as little more than a “certificate of attendance”, according to the American Diploma Project, and high school students must master more English and math for their diplomas in order to signify their readiness to enter the workplace or pursue college.

Thought for the Week…

"Three things in human life are important. The first is to be kind. The second is to be kind. And the third is to be kind."

-- Henry James

Be kind! Don

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Upcoming events scheduled in conjunction with the Common Theme for University Center Rochester

April 2 – 1:00 p.m.  Heintz Center Commons
U.S. Representative Gil Gutknecht will speak on the current climate of corporate responsibility in the pharmaceutical industry. (We are waiting for the exact title of his presentation, but this is the jist of it)

April 15, 2004 – 5:30 p.m.  UCR Room ST 108
“Corporate Irresponsibility: It's Not My Fault: Or is it?”
Professor Steven Castleberry, University of Minnesota Carlson School of Business

If you want to be significantly challenged, if you want to listen to and participate in a lively discussion and possibly heated debate, if you want to walk away learning more about yourself and the way things really work in the business world, then come and join in this session. Role-playing, a powerful and disturbing video and discussions will make the topic come alive.

April 20, 2004 – 3:30 p.m.  UCR Hill Theater
“A Conversation About Corporate Responsibility”
Ralph Nader and Professor of Business Ethics, Ian Maitland, University of Minnesota

The two participants will dialogue on this timely topic

April 20, 2004 – 7:00 p.m.  Century High School Auditorium
“ The Current Climate of Corporate Responsibility”
Ralph Nader

The climate of corporate responsibility has changed during the four decades since the publication of Unsafe At Any Speed, or has it? Hear America’s foremost consumer advocate address the differences in corporate ethics, then and now.

For additional information go to the following website: www.roch.edu/commontheme/
Rochester Community and Technical College
President’s Advisory Council (PAC)
Minutes for Thursday, February 12, 2004 – 2:00 p.m. – AT109

Present: Tim Gilsrud, Nate Huelskamp, Delores Kiehne, Alex Kromminga, Jon Krusmark, Jay Lee, Bonnie Mercer, Barb Mollberg, Don Supalla (Chair), Dave Weber

Recorder: Judy Kingsbury

Guests: Mona Permann and Carol Naatz

ITEM 1 Resource 25 Scheduling Package – Permann demonstrated the process to follow in reviewing on-line room reservations at UCR, noting the website is available to everyone (both on campus and off-campus) at http://www.rctc.edu/studentlife/html/events.html. The R25 Program reserves rooms and the S25 Program automatically assigns the rooms for each course based on the criteria the instructor designated for room needs. The S25 Program has had glitches in the past because of UCR’s unique three institution usage, but the problems have been resolved. The scheduling process includes the downloading of ISRS schedules, followed by the manual entries of UMR courses and other “tweaking” needs as necessary. The website taps directly into R25 and the system is refreshed every 30 minutes, hence up-to-the-minute room usage is available to everyone. Action: Hansmann and Naatz will e-mail an announcement to UCR-All that the website is up and running.

ITEM 2 Economic Impact Study – Weber distributed copies of the recent Economic Impact of RCTC study, highlighting key statistics:

- RCTC adds approximately $80,381,352 in annual impact to the local economy;
- RCTC adds approximately 1,193 jobs to the local economy;
- RCTC adds direct spending (salaries, services, supplies, etc) of approximately $15,626,677 to the local economy;
- 84.8% of RCTC full-time students are in the Rochester workforce;
- 73.3% of RCTC part-time students are in the Rochester workforce;
- 77.3% of recent RCTC graduates work in Olmsted County;

Weber announced the study will be released to the press, adding quick “fast facts” have already been shared through the College Crossings. The economic impact is one of the measures that ties into key performance indicators at the College, hence will be replicated in the future. Action: Information Only.

ITEM 3 Strategic Directions and Goals – Weber distributed information relating to RCTC’s strategic directions, FY04/05 Goals, Key Performance Indicators, and Core Measures, noting the directions align with MnSCU’s strategic plan and annual work plan. These goals will be part of the continuous improvement process. Weber announced the next step is identifying what the College has, charting all data, and setting targets as to where we want to be. Weber also announced the College will be writing a Baldrige application in FY04, hence will be looking for individuals to utilize as resources in obtaining appropriate data. ACTION: Additional information will be shared at an upcoming Staff Development Day Session.

ITEM 4 UCR Campus Closing During Winter Break Survey – Krusmark announced he heard employees indicate that their comments were not published in the Survey results on the web. Weber responded a test could be run on the system; however the current program does not permit tracking comments or ratings to a specific response. Kingsbury added the comment sections were copied and pasted directly from the survey results, but would add any comments manually if they are forwarded to her. Kromminga questioned if problems with departments needing extensive catch-up time (possibly overtime) would be considered in any future campus closings and Supalla responded all situations will be taken into consideration. ACTION: Information Only.
ITEM 5 Perkins – Kromminga reminded everyone about the Perkins Grant funding being in jeopardy, and requested assistance in contacting local legislators and congressman to inform them of the need for Perkins Grants on campus. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 6 National Accreditation – Supalla announced the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs has recommended initial accreditation to RCTC’s Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic Program. Supalla also announced the Associate Degree Nursing re-accreditation site visit is scheduled the third week in February. Lee added the Regional Science Fair competition would also be held at UCR, which includes 250 representatives from area high schools. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 6 Triple Play Dedication – Weber shared details for the upcoming Triple Play Dedication, which will include the unveiling of the Percent for Art project, naming of the Rockenbach Performance Court, and opening of the All-American Room at the Sports Center. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 7 Student Success Day – Mercer shared her appreciation for the work and commitment of several individuals, including Alex Kromminga, Roxy Roadway, and the maintenance department, for their work in producing a successful Student Success Day. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 8 Student Day at the Capital – Huelskamp announced the students just returned from the Student Lobby Day at the Capitol and received positive responses from the area legislators on the upcoming bonding proposals. Mollberg thanked Huelskamp and the other students for taking time out of their busy schedules to show their support for RCTC. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 9 Hiring Committee – Arntson announced the search team appointment letters would be mailed out this week, and orientation sessions will be held the end of the month. Mollberg questioned if “out of field” appointments would be made for faculty, noting the original membership rosters reflected in field appointments. Supalla responded there was never an intentional decision for faculty to be in or out of field; hence he is open to additional appointments. Kromminga questioned the status of the Student Life Director position posting. Mercer confirmed there is restructuring occurring in the student life area, and the new hire will be a .50 FTE position, with responsibility of the student ambassadors, intercollegiate athletics, and planning/implementation of intramurals. Supalla added the students have indicated their desire to have two individuals in student life during the summer months, hence restructuring is being considered to fulfill that need. ACTION: Information Only.

Adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 11, 2004 – 2:00 p.m. – AT109