Free Campus Activity Board Events

Gilligan Loves MaryAnn, Coffeehouse, Tuesday, March 19
11:00 am – 1:00 pm, Art Gallery/Quiet Lounge
Gilligan Loves MaryAnn is comprised of Walt and Amy Fletcher. They perform tunes by such groups as the Dixie Chicks, Beach Boys, Santana, David Gray, Fleetwood Mac and Sheryl Crow. So, join them here at RCTC, you’re sure to get a smile, from two singing castaways – more fun by far than “Gilligan’s Isle.” Everyone is encouraged to wear tropical clothing!

Movies in the Morning, Double Feature,
Wednesday, March 20, 9:00 am – end, Heintz Center Commons
Thursday, March 21, 9:00 am – end, CF202
Sign up for door prizes! Winners announced in Stinger. Pick up at Heintz Center Information Desk and Student Life Office, CC401
Enjoy Thelma and Louise and Point of No Return. Free snacks and beverage.

Chris Cunningham, Coffeehouse, Tuesday, April 2, 11:00 am – 1:30 pm
Art Gallery/Quiet Lounge
Chris performed at RCTC with Justin Roth last April and they gave a great performance. (Justin performed solo at RCTC October 2, 2001). Chris is a fluid, open-minded songwriter. He draws his lyrics from many familiar sources and presents them with a perception and understanding that makes an immediate connection with his listeners. His professional career began in the mid-80’s when he joined up with his friend Johnny Hermanson to form a duo that lasted over a decade. (Chris and Johnny, and later Storyhill). Highlights of their touring include opening for Greg Brown and David Wilcox, and receiving a rave review in Billboard Magazine. Chris finds meaning and joy in all places and walks of life and loves to get out the door and down the road with his words and music.

BOOK FAIR, Wednesday, April 10, Atrium, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm
Here’s another chance to buy great books at great discount prices (they were here in October and December). RCTC’S WORLD DRUM ENSEMBLE, Tuesday, April 23

South Room (3rd Floor Cafeteria), 12:15 pm – approx. 12:45 pm
Enjoy a return engagement by the RCTC World Drum Ensemble, MUSC 1340 students, directed by Denny McGuire. You’ll hear authentic ethnic percussion music styles of Samba, Salsa, West African, Caribbean and South American.
Weekly funny…

"I'll take your double grease burger, 3 orders of fries, a giant milk shake, and you'd better put some lettuce on that burger. I want to stay healthy."

Thank you
To Administration, Faculty and Staff: Thank you for the beautiful fruit basket. It was a delicious treat. It's nice to work with such caring staff. Thanks again.

-Jacquie Connelly.

Scholarships available – please announce

SCHOLARSHIP - Steele County Students: Open to all Steele County residents who are pursuing study in a wide variety of medical fields. Applications are reviewed by an advisory panel comprised of Owatonna Clinic physicians, administrators and members of the community. CRITERIA: Academic record, demonstrated leadership and initiative, work experience and participation in school and community activities. Award amounts vary. DEADLINE: April 1, 2002. Applications available at the UCR Counseling Office or RCTC Foundation Office -Heintz C-120.

Condolences
Condolences are extended to Catherine Egenberger whose father-in-law passed away on March 11, 2002, in Jackson, Minnesota. Our thoughts are with you and your family during this time of sorrow.
Errors Supalla’s Scribblings

Bills continue to be debated and voted on at a hectic pace in St. Paul. Veteran legislative observers believe that representatives want to deal with the budget, bonding, redistricting, state contracts, and a few other issues and then get out of town. The first round of budget adjustments have been made and it’s not certain whether or not legislators are willing to grapple with the long-range ramifications or leave those difficult decisions until next year. The Senate has approved its bonding bill and the House is expected to do so this week…then it’s off to the conference committee. It’s almost certain that there will be very little bonding for Rochester and none for University Center. Weekly legislative updates are available on the MnSCU web site…check it out!

Congratulations are in order…

- Diane Nicholls has received a report from the Minnesota Board of Nursing indicating that the AD-RN pass rate for 2001 is 91% and the LPN pass rate is 83%. This is great news! Way to go students and faculty!

- The entire Continuing Education/Workforce Development staff should be very proud that the MnSCU Annual Review 2001 NETWORK for customized training, education & development, a widely distributed publication, showcased RCTC. A full-page article and photo was the opening feature story in the publication and focused on RCTC’s collaboration with the Rochester Health Care Consortium and the Minnesota HomeCare Association. RCTC and the partners collaborated to develop and market a series of training modules for health care workers. It’s expected that more than 1200 health care workers will be served through this initiative by 2003. Keep up the good work!

- Judy Bird, Marilyn Etbauer and a stellar planning team coordinated a wonderful second annual Beat the Odds Banquet where four students were singled out for their work and presented with $2,000 scholarships. The four students: Phala Din, Kelly Lau, Adam Mohamud and Kalie Poturica. Several of the award winners are currently enrolled in RCTC or will be students here next year. The RCTC Foundation, one of the beneficiaries of the scholarship program, coordinated the dinner. Wells Fargo, Mayo Clinic and the Post-Bulletin sponsored the banquet, attended by more than 350 persons. Several RCTC staff members and students contributed to the success of the event. If you’d like to help plan next year’s Beat the Odds Scholarship Banquet, contact Judy Bird.

- If you haven’t opened the Winter 2002 edition of PERFORMANCE (A newsletter about the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities), do so today. I suggest you turn immediately to Page 7 and focus your attention on the bottom of the page to the story, “Far-reaching venture: Rochester students learn by making CD-ROMs.” The story tells readers how students in Kevin Dobbe’s digital projects class used their talents and skills to create four compact disks and CD-ROMs what will be instrumental in student recruitment and marketing of college programs. Nice going, Kevin and students!

Did you know…

- All 34 MnSCU presidents and the Board of Trustees have gone on record opposing the use of discriminatory logos, names, mascots and nicknames by Minnesota colleges and universities and opposing teams. The presidents, in taking this position, want to reflect and model the system’s core values of integrity, civility, citizenship and diversity.

- The American Association of Community Colleges has submitted a proposal to the US Department of Transportation to train airport security screeners. As an AACC member, RCTC has indicated an interest in participating in delivering this training should the proposal be accepted. AACC would manage the project and member colleges would act as the curriculum team and trainers. Contact Jay Lee if you’d like more information about this project.
In a recent study conducted by The Institute for Higher Education Policy, a review of national data indicates that, in both public and private not-for-profit sectors, average tuition charges increased at a rate faster than inflation and tuition charges increased faster than most expenditure categories within the institutions. Decreasing revenue from governmental appropriations was the most important factor associated with tuition increases at public institutions. At public two-year institutions, 56.8 percent of first-time, full-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduates received financial assistance.

MnSCU recently released a preliminary report on the economic impact of the system on Minnesota. The total statewide impact of MnSCU in 2001 was over $3 billion as measured by estimates of direct and induced spending as well as the enhanced productivity of the state’s labor force. When compared to the state’s appropriation of $579 million, the economic benefits returned to Minnesota are $5.25 for every dollar of appropriation. Information on the economic impact of each MnSCU institution will be released and shared at a later date.

RCTC ranked as the second lowest fully allocated cost per FYE of the 11 MnSCU consolidated colleges. The cost per FYE ranged from Lake Superior’s $6,250 to Minnesota West’s $8,699 (RCTC = $6,276).

Only half of the carpeting ordered arrived in time for a spring break installation. The remaining carpeting is to be shipped in the next couple of weeks and installation will likely be done over a couple of weekends. The stripes running down the edges of the hallways are color-coded by building. Over time, window/door frames and trashcans will be painted to match and coordinated with building floor plan directories. The goal is to make it easier for students, staff, and guests to find their way around UCR.

Thought for the Week…
"Don’t be afraid of opposition. Remember, a kite rises against, not with the wind.”

Hamilton Wright Mabie

Don

Minutes - Pages 5-6
Rochester Community and Technical College
Minnesota State College Faculty (MSCF) Meet and Confer
Minutes for Tuesday, February 26, 2002 – 3:00 p.m. – Presidents’ Room

Present:  Administration  Harris, Supalla
Faculty  Shafer, Helmers, Hill, Israelson, Wright (Chair)
Guest:  Gary Swenson
Recorder:  Judy Kingsbury

ITEM 2 (A) Budget Process – Harris shared the FY03 budget process, which aligns departmental/program budgets and goals with the vision, mission, and goals of the College. The process includes the submission of departmental/program Continuous Improvement Plans, Program or Service Reviews, and Budget Proposals. Harris also announced the March Program Leaders meeting would be devoted to working on the Continuous Improvement component of the process. Swenson announced FY02 budgets are still accessible through the “J” Drive, and encouraged the faculty to copy over the information into the FY03 forms and make the changes on the new forms.  **ACTION:** Continuous Improvement and Budget Forms are due by April 1. Harris will assist any academic department and Weber will assist any non-academic department with the completion of Continuous Improvement Plans.

ITEM 1 (A) Search Committees – Supalla announced Thompson was working on the Counseling replacement, and Lee was assessing need and writing justifications for the Physical Education/Health position. The Art/Journalism position has been on hold until passage through Curriculum Council. Harris added an Economic position is also on hold because of an anticipated phased retirement change, but could move forward soon. Harris also announced there were no applicants for the Director of Nursing position, but the Nursing Department is looking at possible creative ways to fill the position. Finally, Harris announced an English position was claimed by a faculty member from outside the College.  **ACTION:** Information Only.

ITEM 1 (F) Summer Sick Leave – Supalla apologized, on behalf of the Human Resources Office, for the delay in resolving this issue, but has been informed the mass majority of the work has been completed, and the information should be distributed to all appropriate individuals by the end of the week. Supalla also has been informed this process will be done on a regular basis in the future.  **ACTION:** The Human Resources Office will distribute the information to the appropriate individuals by March 1, 2002.

ITEM 3 (A) Physical Education/Health Office Space – Swenson announced the physical education/health department will move to the new UCR Regional Sports Center during Spring Break, and the former office space will house part-time/adjunct faculty for all three UCR partners. No remodeling is planned, but minor improvements (i.e. patching and painting of walls) will occur as time permits.  **ACTION:** Information Only.

ITEM 3 (F) Tables in More Classrooms (Follow-Up) – Swenson acknowledged receipt of the list of classrooms needing tables/chairs, and confirmed the Purchasing Department is in the processing of ordering furniture for those rooms.  **ACTION:** Furniture should be available for summer session classes.

ITEM 4 (A) Legislative Update – Supalla announced if the Minnesota House and Senate override the Governor’s veto, RCTC’s share of the budget reduction would be approximately $550,000. Supalla also announced RCTC currently has two bonding projects ($31.1 million health science and $3 million infrastructure) in the Capital Investment Committee.  **ACTION:** Information Only.

ITEM 5 (A) 2002-2003 Academic Calendar – Harris announced the 2002-2003 Academic Calendar proposal was supported by the Student Senate, and will immediately be distributed campus-wide, as well as accessible through the internet.  **ACTION:** Kingsbury will distribute the revised 2002-2003 Academic Calendars and publish on the internet.
ITEM 4 (F) Pressure to Add Students – Shafer announced Admissions and Records was still sending students to the faculty to add classes, noting Spring Semester started over eight weeks ago and the faculty didn’t need the added pressure to increase enrollment and make special accommodations to help students “catch-up” in the classes. Shafer added when drop/add is over, the faculty should not be put in this position. Harris and Supalla responded there was no intent to increase enrollment this late in the semester, and concurred with the unrealistic requests. ACTION: Harris will visit with Tynsky about sending students to faculty after the drop/add period.

ITEM 5 (F) Morale-power/Justice – Shafer shared some personal observations, as well as concerns by other faculty, regarding negative affects on morale and the faculty perceptions of feeling “devalued.” Shafer stated specifically these feelings have grown stronger because of issues like: the hiring of a faculty position in spite of faculty concerns, articulation agreement, scheduling problems, summer sick leave accrual delays, search committee appointments, budgets (including the administration’s acceptance of pay raises while raising tuition and canceling summer classes), and, more importantly, the belief that the administration is over using their power to push their own agendas and not following reason and justice in decision making.

Supalla responded he did not think the administration was on a “power trip,” but agreed if those feelings exist, then communication needs to be improved. Supalla added he believed the collaboration between administration and faculty to develop a 2002-2003 Academic Calendar was an example of a positive model that worked, and suggested a similar process be used to resolve differences in the future. Harris added when the administration and faculty have different perspectives on issues, then ultimately it is the responsibility of administration to make a final decision, but it’s not done to devalue the position of the faculty, or a faculty member personally, but to best serve the College and its stakeholders. Harris stated administrators have also experienced similar feelings at Curriculum Council this past year, noting often the behavior of the faculty have been unprofessional and personally attacking. Harris reminded the faculty of her previous requests to make Curriculum Council more inclusive, creating a better communication process for the whole College, yet receiving continuous rejection from the faculty on the idea. Harris reminded the faculty that it has to be a “two-way street” and the best resolution is better communication, suggesting faculty and administration meet more often and earlier on issues. Supalla stated he would visit with the administrators and Harris requested the faculty association visit with the faculty about working together to better resolve issues in the future.

Supalla responded to Shafer’s list of concerns item by item, admitting to problems with summer sick leave accruals and the scheduling process. Supalla announced the “pay raise” issue was addressing last year’s raises, which were similar to faculty/staff raises awarded in 2001-2002, and no administrative raises or merit awards have been processed for the current year. Supalla added, in light of the budget recession, consideration is even being made by MnSCU President’s to accept “0” percent this year. Harris agreed earlier and more discussions should have occurred prior to the articulation agreements. Supalla stated that he felt the search committee appointments were handled appropriately; adding he had a responsibility to appoint individuals with the best expertise to the search teams and he felt his appointments supported that responsibility. Wright stated Supalla’s decision to appoint faculty to a search committee that were not forwarded recommendations by the faculty association was an example of Supalla playing his “power card,” adding the faculty leadership is only asking for respect and acknowledgement that the faculty association exists to represent faculty. Supalla responded he did not feel he overrode the faculty recommendations because it was his belief that every faculty recommendation was appointed, hence his appointment of another individual did not displace any of the recommendations forwarded by the faculty association.

Shafer agreed working more proactively is important, but reminded administration that policies need to be handled fairly and equitably among all faculty, and no one faculty member should be treated better or worse than another. ACTION: Both faculty and administration agreed to meet more often to better exchange view points before final decisions are made on issues.

Adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 26, 2002 – 2:00pm – Presidents’ Room