Assessment of Student Learning

WEB address for the committee site is http://www.acd.roch.edu/asl

REMINDER...NEXT ASL COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 23, 2004, 2:00PM, PRESIDENTS ROOM, COLLEGE CENTER
PLEASE JOIN US!

Congratulations to the following faculty awarded Assessment of Student Learning Grants!

Mary Dennison and Jen Bruce: Plan to create and implement an assessment tool to measure a core competency that is shared between English 1117 and Information Studies 1115.

Judy Gust: Plans to document HIT program assessment results using eLumen software.

Mary Olson and Kathy Olson: Plan to document Medical Transcription program assessment results using eLumen software.

Jim Williams: Plans to document Physical Education assessment results using eLumen software.

Lori Halverson-Wente: Plans to create and implement an assessment model to assess student learning in Speech 1114.

We are excited with the advancement of the assessment of student learning initiatives on our campus. Good luck to our grant recipients and we look forward to hearing from them after they complete their projects.

Assessment of Student Learning Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 23, 2004 from 2:00 to 3:00pm in the President’s Room – 4th floor CC

Agenda:
* Updates
  - ASL Grant Awards
  - Critical Thinking Pilot
  - Staff Development Opportunities
* eLumen Software - Next Steps
* Survey Results - Core Competencies
* Future ASL Goals and Activities
Weekly Stakeholder and Market Fact

The Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) has established five national benchmarks. The fourth is called Student-Faculty Interaction.

This is defined by the following statement: In general, the more contact students have with their teachers, the more likely they are to learn effectively and to persist toward achievement of their educational goals. Personal interaction with faculty members strengthens students' connections to the college and helps them focus on their academic progress. Working with an instructor on a project or serving with faculty members on a college committee lets students see first-hand how experts identify and solve practical problems. Through such interactions, faculty members become role models, mentors, and guides for continuous, lifelong learning.

RCTC’s composite score for this benchmark is 52.1. 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 50.3. RCTC is performing above the national norm for this benchmark.

More Baby Girls!

Congratulations to Michelle Messenger and her husband Scott who welcomed a new baby girl named Kate into their family on Sunday, March 14th! Kate weighed in at 6 lbs. 6 oz., and was 18 inches long.

Congratulations also to Darin Hoffman and his wife Amy who have a new baby girl named Natalie Jo. Natalie was born on March 17th and weighed in at 9lbs. 1 oz. and was 21 1/4 inches long.
Supalla’s Scribblings

Public hearings are being scheduled daily and both the House and Senate are attempting to move bills through committees at an increasingly faster pace. The deadline for introducing new legislation is fast approaching. Several legislative initiatives are especially important to RCTC and UCR. I urge you to stay informed by regularly checking out MnSCU’s weekly legislative update…http://www.mnscu.edu/Legislative/legislativeupdates/2004/index.html

Legislation that impacts RCTC includes bonding for the Health Sciences Center, sales tax language change, sales tax extension, Workforce Center collocation planning funds, reciprocity, allocation model implementation, campus closure, financial aid, and the list goes on. Now is the time to call or email our legislators and the members of appropriate committees and tell them how you feel about proposed legislation. Don’t forget to send legislators a note of thanks if you think they’re doing a good job.

Congratulations to Darlene Voeltz who was selected as a Fulbright Scholar and who will be studying in Argentina and Peru this summer. Darlene was one of 16 selected to study in South America and the only two-year college faculty member chosen. Way to go, Darlene!

With a $7,500 grant from the Rochester Area Foundation, members of RCTC’s Asian Student Organization mentor John Marshall High School students with truancy problems or who are at risk of dropping out of school. The mentors work with the JM students as a group. In addition, they provide exposure to postsecondary educational opportunities and give the high school students job-shadowing opportunities. Kim Sin is advisor for the Asian Student Organization and organizer of the mentor program. Nice going!

The Rochester Rotary U.S. Bank Holiday Classic community grant committee awarded Colleen Landherr’s summer youth programs $1,000. Colleen will accept the much-appreciated contribution at a March 25 awards luncheon at the Kahler Grand Hotel. RCTC will also be recognized as a major sponsor for the Classic’s use of the Sports Center for the B-squad games.

The U.S. Department of Education recognizes the importance of community colleges in a new brochure that states…Originating more than 100 years ago, community colleges today serve as a crucial bridge between 20th-century experience and 21st-century skills. Community colleges are important economic engines that help drive the education and training of the American workforce by working closely with local businesses, high schools, universities and community organizations. Community and technical colleges help turn striving teens into successful adults, and adults lacking skills into qualified workers, by providing:

- Local, affordable access to higher education;
- Specialized training and education to meet local workforce needs;
- Retraining and other services for adults who are laid off or have insufficient skills for new job openings.

Community colleges provide education and training for 65 percent of new health care workers, some portion of the college coursework for nearly 40 percent of current teachers, and the initial postsecondary education for one in five bachelor’s degree program recipients certified to teach. Community colleges provide these and other services while being the most affordable and accessible avenue to higher education for Americans. More than 5.4 million students attend courses for credit at 1600 community and technical colleges – nearly half of all undergraduates in America. An additional five million students take non-credit courses at two-year colleges. In all, enrollment at these schools has grown fivefold since 1960.

Thought for the week…”Bringing up a family should be an adventure, not an anxious discipline in which everybody is constantly graded for performance.” – Milton R. Saperstein

The calendar tells us that winter is over. Enjoy the new found joys of spring!

Don
News from the Wellness Committee

Here is this a Health Tip and Recipe to boost your daily points for March Madness. We welcome your suggestions and ideas for "healthy tips" and recipes. Please submit any "healthy tips" or recipes to the wellness committee at: Katie.Swegarden@roch.edu.

The Wellness Team

Health tip #131 from the University of California at Berkeley Wellness Letter: Bring cooking water to a boil before adding vegetables. Allowing water to heat up slowly with the vegetables sitting in it destroys more nutrients. Better yet, steam or microwave vegetables just until crisp-tender.

Recipe source: Quick Meals for Healthy Kids and Busy Parents

Recipe: All American Meatballs (microwave)
1 pound lean ground beef or turkey
1 medium potato, peeled and grated
2 tablespoons dried onion soup mix
1 tablespoon dried parsley flakes
1 egg beaten
2 cups beef broth
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
2 tablespoons cornstarch
2 tablespoons water

Combine ground beef, potatoes, onion soup mix, parsley and egg in large mixing bowl. Shape into 12 meatballs about 2” in diameter. Set aside. In a 2-quart microwave safe casserole dish, combine beef broth and Worcestershire sauce. Add meatballs to sauce. Cook covered on medium high for 12 minutes. Combine cornstarch and water in a small bowl. Mix until smooth. Add to meatballs. Cover and cook on medium high for 4 minutes or until sauce is thickened.

Let stand 5 minutes before serving.

Nutritional facts:
Servings: 6 (2 meatballs)
Calories: 213
Protein: 19g
Carbohydrates: 8g
Fat: 11g
Cholesterol: 91mg
Fiber: 0g
Iron: 2 mg
Calcium: 17 mg
Sodium: 500 mg

Recipe: Oven Fried Vegetables
¼ cup margarine, melted
1 egg
1 tablespoon water
½ cup flour
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon pepper
3 cups cut up fresh vegetables (broccoli, cauliflower, carrots, peppers, mushrooms)

Preheat oven to 400. Melt margarine in a small dish. In another small dish, beat egg and add water. In yet another small dish, mix flour, salt and pepper.

Dip vegetable pieces in egg mixture, then flour mixture. Place on a cookie sheet. Brush with melted margarine. Bake for 7-8 minutes on each side until golden brown.

Nutritional facts (per serving):
Servings: 6 (1/2 cup each)
Calories: 132
Protein 3g
Carbohydrates: 11g
Fat: 9g
Cholesterol: 35mg
Fiber: 2g
Iron: 1mg
Calcium: 23mg
Sodium: 291mg
Got Privilege?
Students, Staff, Faculty, and Community Members are invited to be part of a unique event at RCTC. This event is free and open to the public. It is appropriate for Jr. high and up. ACTion Theatre promises a night of thought, movement, and action as we look at the issue of privilege in our society. Mark your calendar to join us on: Monday, March 29th at 7:00pm in the UCR Cafeteria. For more information, contact Mary Schmidt (285-7166).

For additional information go to the following website: http://www.roch.edu/commontheme/

Thanks to Jerry Casper and the RCTC Drama Club.
This event is made possible by Teresa Tolmie with her MnSCU grant
on raising awareness of White Privilege, MnSCU and the Otto Bremer Foundation.

ACTion Theatre (http://www.actiontheatre.org) is a performance troupe started in 2000 in Winona MN. They do workshops and activities using the techniques of Augusto Boal (Theatre of the Oppressed). They have performed at several schools, universities, businesses and conferences in the area. ACTion Theatre's workshops are highly interactive and allows the audience to look at the "isms" that impact our society (rascism, sexism, classism, etc...).
ITEM 1 (F) and ITEM 1 (A) Fitness Center Proposal – Wright announced the Faculty Senate does not support a $30/semester user fee for the Fitness Center and requested Administration investigate the possibility of utilizing Wellness Program funds for employees using the center. Hansmann responded the Wellness Program uses Staff Development funds to operate (approximately $1,200) and using the funds for 20 faculty/staff would deplete the entire wellness program budget. Supalla announced preliminary numbers reflect 57 faculty/staff watched the video (in order to use the center) and only one-third are actually using the center. Supalla also indicated two faculty members (current users of the fitness center) shared with him their belief that a $30 per semester charge was a bargain, hence support the fitness center fee proposal. Supalla questioned if the non-using faculty were driving the faculty position to not support the proposal, suggesting the faculty users be questioned about the proposal. Supalla announced the Fitness Center Fee Proposal is being considered as a first reading at today’s meeting, and, unless a counter proposal is received from the faculty, the current proposal will be brought back to Faculty Shared Governance Council in March for a second reading. Guenette indicated some health insurance programs contribute funds for employees to participate in wellness programs (off-setting health club membership dues) and questioned if the state could investigate the option with the state health plan providers. Arntson responded she was unaware of a program for state employees. Wright questioned the formula used to propose the $30/semester rate. Hansmann responded it wasn’t a specific formula, but rather a ball park estimate which will depend on the number of users. Wright responded that the $30 ballpark figure should be reconsidered at a lower amount. ACTION: The Fitness Center Fee Proposal will be brought back to Faculty Shared Governance Council for a second reading in March. Arntson will investigate the wellness program option for state employees.

ITEM 3-a (F) Excused Student Policy – Wright announced the faculty support Administration’s request to have faculty initiate notifications for student excused absence as it relates to college-sponsored activities. ACTION: Lee will provide directions to faculty for announcing student excused absences.

ITEM 3-b (F) Faculty Absence Posting – Wright announced the faculty support Administration’s request to post faculty names for faculty absences. ACTION: Arntson will notify the appropriate individuals that faculty names will be posted for absences.

ITEM 3-c (F) Human Resources (POP Process) and ITEM 3 (A) Placement on Payroll Process Task Force – Wright announced three faculty members will work with the Human Resources Department on a task force to determine a process for placement on payroll. ACTION: Wright will provide to Arntson the names of three faculty members to serve on a task force to improve the placement on payroll process.

ITEM 2 (A) UCR Winter Break Closing Proposal – Supalla announced consideration was being given to a UCR Campus Closing from December 22, 2004 through January 2, 2005. Wright questioned if the closing would result in no entry, and Supalla responded the campus security system would be activated and no security or maintenance assistance would be available. However, faculty would have access to their offices with a security code, a similar process practiced during the weekends and holidays. Wright requested faculty be notified of the procedure for obtaining a security code to enter the facilities when the security system is activated. ACTION: Hansmann will provide instructions to the faculty on obtaining a security code and entering the facilities when the security system is activated. The UCR Campus Closing item will be brought back to the next Faculty Shared Governance Council meeting for further consideration.

ITEM 4 (A) Admissions Application Deadline – Wright shared faculty’s request that the admissions application deadline be flexible for programs with low enrollment. Supalla responded consideration would be given on an individual basis. ACTION: Faculty support the admissions application deadline and the deadlines will be published.

ITEM 4 (F) Number of Faculty on Searches – Wright announced faculty would like greater influence in the search process. Wright added the faculty appreciate when additional faculty are added upon request, however, without knowing the make-up of the search committees, it’s difficult to know how many faculty names to submit. Arntson responded faculty representation has comprised more than 50% of the membership of many committees, with several committees being chaired by faculty. Supalla reminded the faculty that search committee appointments are at the discretion of the Appointing Authority, adding every effort has been made to accommodate faculty requests. Wright responded it was not the intent of the faculty to undermine Supalla’s authority, but rather be more involved in the process. ACTION: Information Only.
ITEM 5 (A) Full-Year Course Schedule Update – Supalla announced Lee was working on developing a full-year course schedule with parameters. Wright announced the Academic Affairs and Standards Council is aware that a proposal was forthcoming. **ACTION:** Lee will share a proposal for a year-round schedule at Academic Affairs and Standards Council.

ITEM 6 (A) Activity Assignment Performance Evaluation – Mercer shared a draft faculty performance assessment form that was developed (with the assistance of the athletic directors) to evaluate faculty with activity assignments. Mercer added the evaluation process would begin with coaches and then expand to other activities. Hill suggested the rating scale numbers be consistent throughout the evaluation. Wright questioned if the evaluation process was shared with the coaches. Mercer responded the evaluation was developed with the athletic directors and it is the athletic director’s responsibility to share with the faculty members. **ACTION:** Wright will respond back to Mercer after the physical education and athletic departments have a chance to review.

ITEM 5 (F) Student Success Day – Wright indicated some faculty felt Student Success Day was a success, yet others felt the day should include more structured specific program activities, (i.e. occupational programs using the day with their students doing assignments outside of the classroom). Hill added the scheduling of the day in February should be reconsidered. Wright agreed the day of the week may have been a problem because of the unforeseen snow day the week before, but the content of the day is top priority at this time. Supalla responded no day of the week would please everyone, but the placement of the day would be reconsidered in the development of the next calendar. Supalla also noted, although the number of respondents in the survey was low, the total number of participants was greater in the Spring than in the Fall, and additional faculty involvement (especially in the occupational programs) is needed on the planning committee to improve the activities. Wright questioned if occupational programs could develop individual programs for student success day that pertain more directly with their programs, noting he was informed that a program leader was denied the opportunity to plan special activities for their students. Supalla was not aware of any faculty member being denied an activity and, would not object to special activities as long as the activities were developed in the context of assisting students to be more successful. Wright questioned if the day could be made mandatory for students. Supalla responded it is a student contact day, so technically it could be mandatory, keeping in mind, however, that students who don’t normally have classes on a specific day of the week shouldn’t be required to attend. Supalla added some faculty awarded extra credit to students who attended; however, other faculty were rumored to have told students not to attend because it was a waste of time. Mercer expressed her appreciation to Jim Stegge, Roxy Roadway, Alex Kromminga, the presenters and others involved in the planning of the activities. **ACTION:** Wright will encourage faculty to participate more in the planning activities and Supalla agreed to allow more flexibility for occupational programs as long as the activities help students be more successful.

ITEM 7 (A) Flags in Classrooms – Supalla shared newspaper clippings from Winona State University on the current debate regarding flags in the classrooms, noting the issue appears to be more about the process of approving the flags, and less on the actual placement of the flags. In order to be more proactive, Supalla requested the faculty review the newspaper clippings and begin taking into consideration any possible requests by the local VFW or American Legion clubs to place similar flags in UCR classrooms. Hansmann added the proposed flags on the Winona campus would be placed behind plexiglas, hence needing little or no maintenance. **ACTION:** Information Only.

ITEM 8 (A) Staffing Update – Arntson announced over 30 searches were being conducted and several orientation training session options are scheduled for all search committee members. Arntson also noted the acceptance of applications for the golf position was extended because of a clerical error in the published deadline. **ACTION:** Information Only.

ITEM 9 (A) Alternative Calendar – Supalla expressed his disappointment with the recent request from an occupational program for an alternate calendar to hold class on a day already mutually agreed upon between faculty and administration to be a staff development day. Supalla shared his understanding of the contract that alternate calendars are to be mutually agreed upon and established at the time the academic calendar is finalized, and not in the middle of the academic year and/or at the last minute. Supalla reiterated his disappointment in the inappropriate request and disbelief that any occupational program would have such a tight instructional schedule to necessitate a request so late in the year. Supalla stated similar requests will not be approved in the future. Supalla shared the unfairness to students to require attendance on a day promoted as a non-student contact day, and possible problems that could result for students planning vacations around the advertised academic calendar. Wright agreed that alternate calendars be approved at the time the academic calendar is finalized. Guenette added flexibility is needed, especially for students that need specific courses to be taught during breaks. Supalla agreed flexibility is necessary if it is done upfront, but not appropriate midway through the academic year. **ACTION:** Faculty requesting alternate calendars to accommodate the needs of students must submit requests at the time the academic calendar is being discussed.

Adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 23, 2004 – 2:00 p.m. – AT109