Baldrige Banterings
Thank you to all staff and faculty for participating in the “This is Our Self Study”. Your input is very valuable.

Updated versions of the RCTC MQA Document are available at:

http://www.adm.roch.edu/rctc/html/nca_baldrige.html

You will be able to give input on this document until November 11, at which time the document will be sent to NCA. Please forward input to Laura Tacheny and Don Baldus.

Thanks also to the many contributors who spent countless hours writing, reviewing, and editing our self-study document. Major contributors include Dave Weber, Laura Tacheny, Brian Zmolek, Don Supalla, Tim Gilsrud, Troy Tynsky, Kathy Peak, Abbie Pinsky, Judy Harris, Paula Theisen, Susanne Sheehan, Gary Swenson, Jeanne Wilson, Dave Harris, and Don Baldus

Upcoming events on campus!
Just a reminder to participate and attend some events that will be coming up. Take time out of your busy schedules and have a good time.

Middle Eastern Dancers performance.
Tuesday (August 29th) from 11:00 A.M. to noon, in the Atrium.

Fall Fest. This event is on Wednesday (August 30th) from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. outside the Atrium.

Club Fair. This event is on two dates. The first one is on Tuesday (September 5) in the atrium. The second one is on Thursday (September 7) at the Heintz Center. The times are the same for both days (10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.).
Weekly funny…

"Rosella, cancel my appointments. If I start swimming now I can be back in the office in a couple of weeks."

WELCOME BACK!

Heintz Center
"Welcome Back" Open House
Monday, August 28
11:30 - 2:00 pm.
in room B114

You are invited to kick off the school year with "sweet treats" and to say "hello" to new and returning staff and students. Come alone or bring your students for cookies, bars and lemonade.

Jacket Jamboree – great success!!!

RCTC Student Life would like to thank everyone who helped to make the "Jacket Jamboree" a success. Even with additional seating in the theatre, we had a standing room only crowd of freshmen! From the opening "Portraits of RCTC" screen presentation, to the welcome by Heather Darby, JJ Chair, Tyler Despins, Student Senate President, and Don Supalla, President, students then moved to break-out rooms where the counselors and sophomore leaders gave information to help freshmen be successful in the classroom. The motivational speaker, Father Nick Mezacapa, had the students sitting on the edge of their seats, listening intently and laughing. The performance by the CC Aires capped off the morning’s events. Thanks to Taher Food Service for the great lunch and to all our staff volunteers who served the food. Students enjoyed the picnic, music, and meeting new friends on the Courtyard (the rain didn’t dampen any spirits!). During the Ice Cream Social the door prizes and the grand prize were drawn. We would like to thank the Rochester Community College Foundation for their generous support of this day with their subsidy of $1,000 tuition credit for the grand door prize! Congratulations to Michelle Wilker, the winner of the $1,000 tuition credit.

RCTC Chiropractic Clinic
Open Tuesdays from 2-6 pm. Call us at 529-2736 or stop in and see us in C211.

What’s a Chiropractor?
Chiropractors are trained to ensure your nervous system is free of spinal nerve interference. They believe in whole body wellness. Wellness is the state of health where your body is free of spinal nerve interference, allowing you to enjoy life. Your chiropractor will discover any spinal nerve interference within your spinal column and with adjustments, will correct them.

A message from Goddard Library
The library staff would like your assistance in enabling students to make the best use of library materials for their class assignments. It would help us greatly if you are giving a class assignment on a specific author or topic if you would contact a librarian regarding the feasibility of putting materials on reserve for that assignment. This would enable all students to have equal access to the materials for that assignment, especially if there are limited materials available. Please feel free to contact a librarian at x7233 or via e-mail at: library.ucrli@roch.edu
2000-2001 All-College Committees

The RCTC All-College Committee memberships for the 2000-2001 academic year are being compiled. The Contractual Committees remain the same with membership being submitted via the Local Unions.

CONTRACTUAL MEET AND CONFER FOR 2000-2001:

- CCFA Meet and Confer
- UTCE Faculty Senate
- Curriculum Council
- Facilities, Grounds, Safety and Security
- AFSCME Labor Management
- MAPE Meet and Confer

The All-College Committees will also remain the same. Please review the list of committees and task forces below, and if you are interested in serving on one or more of these committees/task forces, please contact Judy Kingsbury either by e-mail or at extension 7216. UTCE and CCFA faculty wishing to volunteer should contact their appropriate presidents (either Gregg Wright or Ed Shafer).

ALL-COLLEGE COMMITTEES FOR 2000-2001:

- Teaching and Learning
  - Suggested Task Forces
    - Academic Standards
- Innovative Design (comprised from members of the other All-College Committees)
- Student Stakeholder Relations
  - Suggested Task Forces
    - Food Service
    - Student Life
    - International/Global Education
    - Commencement
    - Enrollment Management
    - SOAR Planning
- Employee Relations
  - Suggested Task Forces
    - Affirmative Action
    - Retirement/Social Planning
    - Staff Development
    - Wellness/Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Prevention
- Technology

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2000-2001:

The Common Hour on Tuesdays from 2-4pm will continue to be utilized for as many meetings as possible.

1st Tuesday
- Faculty Curriculum (2:00 p.m.)
- Division/Department Program Leaders (3:00 p.m.)
- *All-College Committees and Task Forces

2nd Tuesday
- Curriculum Council (2:00 p.m.)
- *All-College Committees and Task Forces

3rd Tuesday
- Faculty Senate (2:00 p.m.)

4th Tuesday
- Fall Semester: CCFA Meet and Confer (2:00 p.m.)
  - UTCE Faculty Senate (3:00 p.m.)
- Spring Semester: UTCE Faculty Senate (2:00 p.m.)
  - CCFA Meet and Confer (3:00 p.m.)
- *All-College Committees and Task Forces

5th Tuesday (October 31, 2000 and January 30, 2001)
- All-Staff Meetings/Workshops

*All-College Committees and Task Force meetings may be scheduled on the 1st, 2nd, or 4th Tuesday of each month, or at another mutually agreed day/time by the members.
Supalla’s Scribblings

Many thanks to the Staff Development Task Force for the wonderful celebration they planned. Congratulations to all those who were recognized for their accomplishments. There’s still quite a list of others that deserve peer recognition and we’ll continue the celebration at future all-college gatherings. I extend personal thanks to my “friends” who shared their memories of my years at RCTC and remind all of you that once a picture’s shown on the big screen, future public display is forbidden and it’s banished to the permanent archives. If you haven’t already done so, please take a few moments to complete the assessment form and return it to Human Resources. Those planning future workshops want to make future staff development activities even better than Monday’s great welcome back. Have a terrific year!

You need to know…

- RCTC served 63 more students this summer than last (a 5% increase); resulting in 33 additional FTE (an 8% increase)! Preliminary fall semester enrollment numbers reveal a headcount increase of 9.4%; an FTE increase of between 10 and 11 percent. The immediate focus now switches from recruitment to retention. Thanks for the great start!

- Terry Brown sent me a letter acknowledging the great help she gets from certain departments and individuals at RCTC as she fulfills her allied health liaison responsibilities with the Mayo School of Health Related Sciences. Included in her list of those who deserve recognition were Earlene Hackenmiller and the Enrollment Services Office, the Admissions and Records Office, Rachelle Splittstoesser (and Gail Jimenez before her), and Glen Saponari. Terry and I are aware of the fine performance of all staff, but we are especially appreciative of the great job these people do serving the students enrolled in our joint Mayo/RCTC programs.

- A student in the Cisco Networking Academy sent a letter expressing how the Academy helped him achieve his goals and begin a new career. Bits and pieces from the letter... “Ted Marchand was my instructor and was very helpful with me. There were times I thought about dropping out because I had a family and many obligations, but Ted was understanding and helped me with all that I needed to do to stay in class. I also got tremendous help from Dave Stephenson and had some excellent advice from Warren Kemplin. After my completion of all four modules I studied intensely for two weeks and passed my CCNA certification on the first try, what an exciting time for me. I than put my resume on the Internet and forwarded it to recruiters. The day finally came when I got a phone call from Broadwing Communications and had several phone interviews before flying to Austin, Texas for a formal meeting. I was given an offer I could not refuse along with a relocation package.” Great customer service = a very satisfied student! Thanks, guys!

- AARP conducted a survey of people age 50 and older to explore how and why senior citizens learn new things. Key findings revealed that regardless of age, gender, income, or education, most senior citizens use newspapers, magazines, books and journals for learning. Reflective and hands-on approaches are among the best ways for older adults to learn. Older adults are interested in learning so that they can keep in touch with themselves, their community, and the world. Adults 50 and over are most interested in learning about subjects that would improve the quality of their lives, build upon a current skill, or enable them to take better care of their health. Older adults’ preferred three learning formats over all others: learning in loosely-structured groups, in workshop settings, or by teaching themselves. Senior citizens are eager to use what they learn, want to have at least some control over the learning process, and are typically willing to spend modest sums of money to learn. Is RCTC tapping into this targeted audience? Would a survey of younger students find they prefer to learn in a similar manner?
Beloit College—in an effort to help its faculty and staff understand freshmen—releases an annual “mindset list” to help employees think about what their new students have, or have not, experienced. This year’s list notes that most members of the high school graduating class of 2000 were born in 1982, the year the Equal Rights Amendment was effectively defeated and C-SPAN started 24-hour coverage. Some of the others items on the list include:

1. Grace Kelly, Elvis Presley, Karen Carpenter and the E.R.A. have always been dead.
2. Somebody named George Bush has been on every national ticket, except one, since they were born.
3. The Kennedy tragedy was a plane crash, not an assassination.
4. A “45” is a gun, not a record with a large hole in the center.
5. They have probably never lost anything in shag carpeting.
6. There have always been automated teller machines.
7. Toyotas and Honda have always been made in the United States.
8. Three Mile Island is ancient history, and nuclear accidents happen in other countries.
9. They never used a bottle of White Out.
10. They feel more danger from having sex and being in school, than from possible nuclear war.

I keep reminding myself…I’m getting older, but I’m getting better

Don

Student Support Services
“Welcome Back” Open House

Tuesday, August 29
11:30 – 1:00 p.m.
SS169

You are invited to kick off the school year with ice cream and to say “hello” to new and returning staff and students.

Iris Janell Sara Leslie Brenda Deb

Corrections of note:
The following are corrections to the previously published list of Withdrawal and Drop/Refund Deadlines for NonConCurrent Courses for Fall Semester 2000:
MATH 1111-31 withdrawal deadline should be 11/28
NURS 2207-01 withdrawal deadline should be 10/4
NURS 2209-01 withdrawal deadline should be 10/4
NURS 2218-01 withdrawal deadline should be 10/4

The Withdrawal and Drop/Refund Deadlines for NonConCurrent Courses was an attachment to the August 21 College Crossings and can be accessed in the back issue section of the intranet website.
Up to Speed

What a great start we have had! Kudos to all of the people involved in Staff Development Day. Please join me in thanking our AV/Media Department for their special efforts that day. Filling requests for projection in several settings, for several hundred people required a real stretch of their time, equipment, and creativity. Many thanks to our talented AV/Media Staff.

Enrollment Services, Admissions and Records, and many others of you this summer worked very hard to see the results we have all rejoiced about this week—a substantial increase in enrollment. The students are here. Now the major work of the faculty begins: creating the environment, utilizing the resources, and providing the framework for learning to take place.

In his “This is Our College Today” address, President Supalla shared the dramatic improvement that has been identified in the Student Satisfaction Surveys—cause to celebrate all that we have done well. We also know what we can improve on. One of those areas for improvement comes under the “providing a framework for learning” that I listed above. The area for improvement that I want to focus on this fall is the students’ desire to know what their grade is at any time during the semester. We begin talking about how to keep students informed last spring. And the breakout session on grading at Monday’s staff development day featured the grading methods of four RCTC faculty members. In common to all four was a clear identification of which assignments had grades attached to them and of what value in the larger grading scheme each assignment had. Sometimes attendance and make-up were factored in if they affected grades.

Here’s my summary of that session: Step 1 to making grading clearer for students is to identify what your expectations are. Step 2 is to create an opportunity for students to monitor their progress throughout the semester. Our grading session offered options for how to go about doing this. One approach that seemed successful was to give students a copy of the grading plan with a space for them to track their own score and compare it to the total score. In some cases a short math lesson in figuring percentages may be necessary. Another method is to use EXCEL or some other electronic grading method that permits an instructor to print out student grades quickly and frequently. I’ll ask TeachNet to offer more sessions on electronic grading. In addition, several time-out moments during the semester when you remind and help students identify their current grade may be worth consideration.

Step 3 creating rubrics which are definitions or characteristics of what constitutes a grade of A, B, C, etc. for a particular course, class, or assignment is the most difficult and most time consuming. However, rubrics can help keep both you and the student on the same track. Creating rubrics may be a departmental or program project to work on. The pay-off for the student is a clear understanding of what he/she will be evaluated on. The pay-off for you is that if the student has a clear understanding of your grading plan, you should have fewer grading issues to deal with allowing you to concentrate on teaching and learning rather than grading. I’d like to believe that one pay-off for the college as whole might be an increase in retention.

Judy Harris

Students excused
Please excuse the following Soccer players from class after 2:00pm on Sept. 7 and 8. Nikki Kasten, Annie Bigelbach, Jessica Erwin, Jessica Hare, Jessica Folgeson, Mandy Adkins, Kat Berg, Marie Regnier, Calie Westlund, Lindsay Blondell, Mariah Smith, Gretchen Johnson, Alissa Klug, Racheal Lonetree and Kristy Rain.

Taher Food Service
Dining Room and Heintz Center Snack Bar
Monday-Friday, 7:30 am - 1:30

Look for weekly menus in the next issue of Crossings!
Upcoming employee meetings

August 30, 2000
Wells Fargo Retirement:
11:30 - 12:30  CF202
1:30 - 2:30  C105 At Heintz Center
Wells Fargo will be going over IRAP/TRA for new employees, changes in the
Defined Contribution for existing faculty and the Tax Sheltered Annuity Program
(403b) for anyone.

September 20, 2000
Tax Sheltered Annuity Program (403b) with MET LIFE
9:30 - 10:30am  CF202
2:30 - 3:30pm  CF202
This is going to be an informational meeting on Met life's role in the TSA Plan.
Question and Answer time.

September 27, 2000
OPEN ENROLLMENT
1:30 - 3:30pm  C-105,107,109
The insurance representatives will present the different changes that will be occurring
for the upcoming year and what will be offered in October for Open Enrollment.

October 3, 2000
Long Term Insurance Seminar
11:00 - 1:00pm  CF206/208
Informational seminar about the new optional insurance that is offered during Open Enrollment regarding Long Term Care.