

**WMCC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 15, 2023**

Present: Pamela Laflamme (Chair), David Backler, Heidi Barker, Sarah Boone, Mike Laracy, Chuck Lloyd, Corey Riendeau, Alan Smith

Absent: Beth Carpenter, Kevin Carpenter, Michelle Cruz, Julie King, Kevin Powers

Guests: Colbie Ayotte, Mark Desmarais, Steve Ellis, Kristen Miller, Melanie Robbins, Gretchen Taillon

The White Mountains Community College (WMCC) Advisory Committee convened on February 15, 2023, at 12:08 PM.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Chair Laflamme and seconded by Mr. Smith to approve the September 28, 2022, meeting minutes. All were in favor.

Regional/Individual Updates & Community Needs

Chair Laflamme welcomed all to the meeting and asked that everyone provide any updates they'd like to share.

Mr. Smith said his program is off to a good start for the second part of the school year. He discussed the Above the Notch program at Littleton High School.

Ms. Barker remarked that it was great to see such strong WMCC representation at the event held recently by the President of UNH at the Town & Country. She said her program is currently fully staffed in the North Country, and if anyone needs to make connections, let her know. Schools have been very engaged with the Androscoggin Valley Farm to School Initiative.

Mr. Laracy announced that he had retired as of the week prior.

Ms. Boone explained that she represents Burgess Power and discussed pending legislation. She encouraged anyone with questions or interested in additional information to reach out to her.

Warden Riendeau discussed the Second Chance Pell program between the Northern NH Correctional Facility and WMCC and commented that he is hearing very positive feedback so far.

Mr. Backler explained that he was recently able to travel to Alabama with a group from WMCC as part of the Rural Pathways Project and discussed his experience. He also discussed the AVEC collaborative amongst SAU 3, SAU 20, and WMCC.

Mr. Ellis discussed his role as a liaison between this group and the CCSNH Board of Trustees, and how he can share any concerns with the BOT on behalf of this group if ever necessary.

Chair Laflamme discussed the need for pathways into the forestry industry within the area.

College Updates

Dr. Miller talked further about the Rural Pathways Project mentioned by Mr. Backler and explained WMCC is about half-way through this project. She also discussed the Second Chance Pell Program mentioned by Mr. Riendeau. This program will begin in March and will have WMCC instructors teaching Liberal Arts and Business Administration courses to 25 residents of the Northern NH Correctional Facility. Dr. Miller also discussed efforts amongst the Vice Presidents of Academic Affairs throughout the CCSNH to collaborate in areas such as shared courses.

Dr. Desmarais announced that WMCC is the recipient of a \$1.2 million grant through Campus Compact which will allow the college to hire three Persistence and Continuing Education (PACE) Coordinators who will assist with recruitment efforts within the high schools in our communities. Dr. Desmarais mentioned several upcoming recruitment events, including an Open House scheduled for April 14, a *College is For Me* event for fifth grade students, ongoing financial literacy workshops held in collaboration with the NH Higher Education

Assistance Foundation (NHHEAF), and Commencement, which is scheduled for Friday, May 12 at 4:00 PM, here at the college, and to which everyone in this group is invited.

Ms. Robbins gave an update on the new advanced technology building in Littleton. The anticipated date of completion has been pushed into August, and the goal is to be in there by the end of that month. Ms. Robbins explained that a second LPN cohort, as part of a partnership with River Valley Community College, started in January; an MA apprenticeship cohort will begin this fall; and a CDL-B program is starting in March (CDL-A runs summer and fall). She announced that a Business After Hours will be held at the Littleton site on April 18, in conjunction with the Littleton Chamber of Commerce, to highlight recent renovations to the current building, as well as show the progress on the new one. Ms. Robbins also announced a new program coordinator, Olivia Neville, has been hired for the Massage Therapy program. In North Conway, the college is having an increased presence in Kennett High School and will be offering an Academic Readiness class to students on-site there.

President Lloyd gave a brief presentation regarding the North Conway Academic Center, and explained that, after much consideration, the Leadership Team has made the decision not to renew the lease. He reviewed the communication strategy regarding this decision, as well as the impact on students, employees, and programs currently located in North Conway. An enhanced partnership with Kennett High School is being developed to continue offering courses in the North Conway area.

Regarding the WMCC and Lakes Region Community College collaboration, President Lloyd explained that the Leadership Teams of both colleges agree it does not make sense for the colleges to merge but feel that system-wide efficiencies could be made; therefore, conversations are taking place around this beyond just these two colleges. The Board of Trustees is expecting Chancellor Rubinstein to have a plan in relation to this by March.

President Lloyd announced that the *Building Community* capital campaign for the advanced technology building in Littleton is nearing the \$300,000 mark.

The college has been approached by the Boys and Girls Club to consider a co-location opportunity within the college's main location in Berlin. The Leadership Team is awaiting a proposal for review. Mr. Smith remarked that we are at a point where we should all be considering sharing space, faculty, etc., and thinking about the needs of the community.

President Lloyd reviewed the operating budget and discussed a proposed *Promise Program* to provide funds to attend college for Pell-eligible students, for which a request for funding has been submitted to the NH Charitable Foundation and State.

Other Business

Mr. Ellis discussed the need for a business to open an ice cream stand in the area.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on May 31, 2023, at 12:00 PM.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen Taillon
Human Resources Officer