

**WMCC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 15, 2022
(DRAFT)**

Present: Pamela Laflamme (Chair), David Backler, Heidi Barker, Cathy Conway, Janice Crawford, Carrie Gendreau, Mike Laracy, Chuck Lloyd, Al Smith

Absent: Kevin Carpenter, Ben Gaetjens-Oleson, Julie King, Paul Pinkham

Guests: Colbie Ayotte, Darrin Daniels, Mark Desmarais, Steve Fader, Kristen Miller, Melanie Robbins, Gretchen Taillon

The White Mountains Community College Advisory Committee convened on June 15, 2022, at 12:00PM in Bistro A at WMCC.

President Lloyd announced that Ms. Gendreau, Mr. Pinkham, and Ms. Conway would be ending their terms of service on this committee and thanked them, along with Mr. Gaetjens-Oleson, who could not attend the meeting and is also terming off the committee, for their years of service.

-Approval of Previous Minutes

Ms. Barker made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on February 3, 2022, and Ms. Conway seconded the motion. All were in favor to approve the meeting minutes of February 3, 2022.

-Regional/Individual Updates

Ms. Barker spoke about Carol Jean ending her term as a VISTA at the college; she was heavily involved with the WMCC Food Cabinet. In Carol Jean's new role, she will be working as a state lead for the VISTA program.

Mr. Backler discussed finding ways to work with people to come to our community and stay in our community. He also discussed creating pathways for students.

Chair Laflamme discussed staffing issues in the city; part of the issue being the lack of housing. The city is looking to increase the amount of available housing and supporting local businesses that want to expand. The city is working with the college on workforce development.

Ms. Gendreau discussed the possibility of creating job shadowing opportunities for high school students. She would like to see a program at the college to help students feel more confident in politics.

Mr. Smith discussed the staffing shortage he's facing, particularly in the math and science departments. Last summer, guidance counselors met to discuss career pathways for students, to help guide them towards their possible careers and interests. He would like to see a dental program, and he has been approached by several people to do something regarding aviation.

Ms. Crawford announced is retiring from her role as Executive Director of the Mount Washington Valley Chamber of Commerce. She would like to see a higher-level certification program for veterinary technicians, so they can triage emergency calls; veterinarians will not take emergency calls in the Valley. She would also like there to be course work on apprenticeships for business.

Ms. Gendreau suggested workshops or trainings to help businesses figure out what students need and want to learn.

-Approval of Advisory Committee Bylaws

Ms. Crawford made a motion to approve the newly established bylaws for this committee, and Mr. Laracy seconded the motion. All were in favor.

-Membership

President Lloyd asked the group for suggestions regarding who should be asked to join the committee. The committee suggested a few community members and sectors they would like to see represented. President Lloyd and Chair Laflamme will invite potential new members the next meeting.

-College Updates

Dr. Miller discussed the Rural Guided Pathways project the college is part of the team involved consists of community members and college employees. The college was selected as an experimental site for the Second Chance Pell program, which helps incarcerated individuals access educational programs through the college. The college is working on increasing the certifications for the veterinary technician program, and has a partner interested in emergency veterinary medicine.

Dr. Desmarais said there has been a focus on developing personalized maps for students to help guide them along their educational pathway. Orientation sessions have been planned at all locations for the upcoming fall semester.

Ms. Taillon said the college is seeing more applicants for vacant positions; at this time last year, the college was not getting many applicants. The college is also seeing a higher retention rate of employees.

Ms. Robbins discussed the timeline for the construction of the new building in Littleton. Enrollment is rebounding in North Conway. Massage therapy students are opening their clinic in Littleton and North Conway.

President Lloyd mentioned that community college in Maine is now tuition free for residents, though Living in a residence hall will still cost students. The group is interested in seeing retention rates in Maine, as well as information regarding how students are performing academically.

-System-wide Updates

President Lloyd informed the group of a significant grant the college will be receiving in partnership with Campus Compact for New Hampshire. This grant will provide the college with three full-time employees who will work in student affairs with a focus on college access while working with students in the north country high schools. President Lloyd also shared that the recent NH Gives Day campaign raised over three million dollars for non-profits throughout New Hampshire, including the seven community colleges.

Chair Laflamme read a profile of WMCC professor of STEM John Holt that was recently featured on The Foundation for NH Community Colleges website. The Foundation Executive Director Tim Allison had also sent along his thanks to Mr. Laracy for his ongoing assistance in helping identify prospects that might benefit from learning more about WMCC and supporting the college. Mr. Allison is always available to work on identifying leads for corporate or individual engagement with WMCC.

Mr. Fader discussed AwardSpring, the electronic scholarship application platform the college is using. He also let the group know that the college was in a healthy financial position. Students will be able to continue receiving free breakfast and lunch next year through the Meals Included program with assistance from a grant. The college is looking into how it could offer transportation to and from campuses for students, perhaps through a partnership with Tri-County CAP.

-Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Colbie Ayotte

Human Resources/President's Office