



**WMCC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
September 20, 2021**

Present: Pamela Laflamme (Chair), David Backler (attended virtually), Cathy Conway (attended virtually), Janice Crawford (attended virtually), Trinity Gendron, Julie King, Mike Laracy (attended virtually), Chuck Lloyd, Paul Pinkham (attended virtually)

Absent: Heidi Barker, Kevin Carpenter, Ben Gaetjens-Oleson, Carrie Gendreau, Al Smith

Guests: Colbie Ayotte, Kristen Miller, Melanie Robbins, Gretchen Taillon

The White Mountains Community College Advisory Committee convened on September 20, 2021, at 11:30 AM in the college bistro.

-Approval of Previous Minutes

The approval of previous minutes was tabled due to the requirement of a quorum needing to be present in person in order to vote on anything.

-System-Wide Updates

President Lloyd spoke about some of the personnel changes at the system level. The Community College System of New Hampshire has a new chancellor, Dr. Mark Rubinstein. He will be visiting WMCC in a few weeks, and members of this group will be invited to meet him when he visits. The Great Bay Community College President Search Committee is hoping to have someone in place by January 1, 2022.

-Academic Affairs

Dr. Miller started her update by discussing the strong start of the semester. There are more face-to-face opportunities this year, while still managing instruction amidst the pandemic. The college is developing programming for electric vehicles and bringing an LPN program to the North Country. Academic Affairs is constantly look for ways to further align opportunities such as credit, non-credit, and workforce development. At the system level, VPAAAs are working on transferability between CCSNH and USNH.

-Student Affairs

President Lloyd spoke of the importance of the accessibility of student services. Students are coming out of a year of learning remotely and the college continues to look for ways to further make college more accessible. The college has a new online mental health counselling service for students. Open houses and other recruiting events are being planned for the upcoming year.

-Academic Centers

Ms. Robbins started her update by discussing the Littleton Academic Center. There is a new Allied Health wing, where the Medical Assisting program is located. The LNA lab has been updated to accommodate the new LPN program. A new sign for the center will soon be installed. Littleton Head Start will be moving to the corner of the building, so that a student area can be put in its current location. Ms. Robbins then gave an update regarding the North Conway Academic Center. The Massage Therapy program is back after a one-year hiatus and will have a clinic in the spring for students, staff, and faculty in order to get some hands-on experience. The Veterinary Assistant program is working with the Conway Area Humane Society; last week students socialized kittens. The North Conway Outdoor fest went well in July. There were plenty of vendors and attendance was high, and she said that the college is looking to hold this event again next June.

President Lloyd informed the group that the college is moving forward with the Littleton expansion, using Colby Engineering. Most of the funding has been secured, with an anticipated cost of 8-8.5 million dollars. Ms. King asked if the college had a plan if the cost was higher than the estimation. President Lloyd spoke to how the project will be done in phases, not all at once, and cost will be evaluated after the first phase has been completed.

-Student Senate Update

Ms. Gendron is looking forward to the school year. Student Senate had its first meeting last week and has found a time that works best for everyone to meet, while also trying to make sure the academic centers are more included. The first activity discussed was a Fall Festival, where there will be different events planned throughout the week before Halloween. They are also interested in getting a fire pit for the back lawn in Berlin.

-Bylaws

Ms. Laflamme gave a brief update regarding the bylaws for the committee. She used language similar to that of the CCSNH Board of Trustees' bylaws. Ms. Taillon sent out the proposed bylaws document before the meeting. Term limits need to be defined, roles and responsibilities are similar, and meetings will be established and more frequent. At the next meeting when a quorum is present, bylaws will be discussed further.

-Regional/Individual Updates & Community Needs

Ms. King informed the group that she has a new CTE Director, Danielle Demers. She is looking to reinvigorate connections within the community and establish partnerships and opportunities.

Ms. Laflamme discussed multiple topics regarding the city. She informed the group that Berlin is working on its master plan. Elections will be taking place this fall. She noted the workforce shortage is not just a local issue, businesses and organizations throughout the North Country have been affected. She discussed the lack of housing availability in the area, as this is an issue for WMCC students. The city is trying to make things easier through zoning.

President Lloyd discussed a bill that is being filed that, if passed, would require WMCC to offer bachelor's degree programs.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Colbie Ayotte
Human Resources/President's Office