



**WMCC COLLEGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 27, 2021**

Present: Pamela Laflamme (Chair), David Backler, Heidi Barker, Kevin Carpenter, Cathy Conway, Carrie Gendreau, Julie King, Mike Laracy, Chuck Lloyd, Paul Pinkham, Hanna Seibert

Absent: Janice Crawford, Ben Gaetjens-Oleson, Al Smith

Guests: Darrin Daniels, Tim Allison, Colbie Ayotte, Mark Desmarais, Scott Fields, Kristen Miller, Melanie Robbins, Gretchen Taillon

The White Mountains Community College Advisory Committee convened virtually via Zoom on January 27, 2021, at 12:00 PM.

Approval of Previous Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Seibert and seconded by Trustee Daniels to approve the meeting minutes of August 12, 2020. Ms. Gendreau said that she was not at the last meeting and that her absence was not reflected in the minutes. A vote was taken to approve the minutes with this change, and all were in favor.

System-Wide Updates

President Lloyd informed the group of personnel changes at the system level. Interim Chancellor Susan Huard will be transitioning out of office during the summer. Great Bay Community College is in the process of a presidential search. Mr. Allison said that the search committee is still taking applications and they are hoping to be down to four top candidates in March. President Lloyd continued by saying that the system currently has an Interim Chief Human Resources Officer, and that Scott Fields, WMCC's Chief Business Affairs Officer, has just been appointed CCSNH's new Chief Operating Officer, and has been transitioning into that role. President Lloyd also spoke about the Board of Trustees retreat that was held on January 21-22. The focus during the retreat was workforce development, shared credentialing, bulk purchasing, marketing, institutional research, and program rotation.

Community Colleges of NH Foundation Update

Mr. Allison informed the group that a WMCC adjunct instructor has made a significant donation for scholarships for WMCC students. President Lloyd followed up by saying that there are currently fourteen eligible applicants, and that the donor would like the funds to be given in large amounts. Mr. Allison also discussed the first ever annual appeal across all seven colleges and said that many donations are being made from around the community.

COVID-19 Update

Dr. Desmarais recounted how classes went remote after Thanksgiving and the past semester was successfully completed virtually in December. Mini orientation sessions were held in the beginning of January for new students. Lab-based courses are among those that are currently face-to-face. Students who need to quarantine/isolate are able to attend classes remotely. Weekly meetings are held by the COVID-19 Task Force and Leadership Team. Dr. Miller followed up by discussing the different course modalities being offered to students, and how the college is working with students to meet their needs.

Personnel

Ms. Taillon announced several personnel changes at the college. Matt Malkin was hired as the Director of Marketing and Communications in the fall. Facilities Manager Steve Derosier recently retired, and the college is in the process of filling his position. The college is in the early stages of recruiting for a new Business Affairs Officer. Mr. Fields will continue to work with the college through the end of the fiscal year with the assistance of Steve Fader. Marc Pouliot has been hired as a faculty member for the Diesel Heavy Equipment Technology program.

Enrollment

Dr. Desmarais discussed the current enrollment at the college. He said that the college is 10% down which was anticipated. The persistence rate held strong at 72%, which exceeds system-wide and national numbers. Student needs are being met virtually. Applications are strong for summer and fall. President Lloyd followed up by saying the 10% percent down is in credits, but we have a similar number of students, they are just learning part-time. Early College courses have seen a significant increase in students.

Finance/Facilities

Mr. Fields spoke about how the college is in a strong position financially and is projected to end the year in the black. They have been implementing strategic spending to weather the storm with federal stimulus dollars and will be seeing more than twice the amount of federal stimulus dollars that it did last time with this next round of funding.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)

Dr. Desmarais said that a strong focus has been placed on diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout the CCSNH. A System-wide DEI Winter Symposium was held recently, and a WMCC student was part of a panel discussion where students discussed their experiences belonging to a minority group. The college's DEI Committee will be planning workshops that focus on inclusion in the upcoming semester.

Littleton Property

President Lloyd let the group know that the CCSNH Board of Trustees voted unanimously for the college to purchase the building in which we are currently located in Littleton. The college's goal is to close on the building for March 31st. The college will have to look at staffing, structure, and revamping the HVAC system. There is some stimulus money that can be used for the HVAC system. The college is planning on using money from selling the Twitchell property to help offset this purchase. President Lloyd asked if advisors would issue a letter of support for funding for the Littleton expansion, and all were in agreement of this. President Lloyd and Chair Laflamme will work on this.

Ms. King asked if WMCC was looking to establish a sister college in Littleton with this expansion. President Lloyd responded that it would just be an addition to the current Littleton Academic Center.

Student Senate Update

Ms. Seibert let the group know that the first Student Senate meeting of the semester would be taking place after this meeting, where they will be brainstorming student activities. Ms. Seibert hopes that there will be more student involvement this semester, as it has been difficult to engage students this year due to COVID and many students being remote.

Important Dates

President Lloyd asked that the committee members note the dates for Commencement (May 14th at 5:00PM) and the Golfing the Gap Tournament (June 24th at 9:00AM).

College Advisory Committee By-Laws

Chair Laflamme reminded the group that there will be more work done this spring to formalize by-laws for the Advisory Committee.

Regional/Individual Updates & Community Needs

Ms. Gendreau said that she was happy to hear the college is expanding in Littleton. She said that if there was any interest from the college to attend an upcoming meeting of the Littleton selectmen, she would be happy to invite a representative.

Mr. Carpenter said some students at Kennett High School are still unsure what college will look like next year, and that it's a great opportunity to recruit and fulfill credits.

Ms. Conway said the news about the expansion in Littleton is exciting. She reported that her business has been in hiring mode, as there has been a lot of development in both residential and commercial sectors.

Mr. Pinkham said that business is booming, and he thinks the timing of the Littleton expansion is great. He is currently looking to hire 40 part-time employees for his business.

Ms. Barker has worked with Sam Hauser, WMCC AmeriCorps VISTA, regarding food insecurity. She suggested including a representative from White Mountains Regional High School on this Advisory Committee.

Mr. Backler continues to advocate alternative energy sources.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:25 PM.

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