

**WMCC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 20, 2023**

Present: Pamela Laflamme (Chair), David Backler, Beth Carpenter, Kevin Carpenter, Chuck Lloyd, Corey Riendeau, Al Smith

Absent: Sarah Boone, Julie King

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

The White Mountains Community College (WMCC) Advisory Committee convened on September 20, 2023, at 12:00 PM in the WMCC Bistro.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Backler and seconded by Ms. Laflamme to approve the minutes from the meeting on May 31, 2023. All were in favor.

Regional/Individual Updates & Community Needs

Chair Laflamme welcomed all to the meeting and asked that members provide updates.

Mr. Backler informed the group that SAU 20 had a great start to the school year. Last year felt more like a real year, but the energy was not the same; this year people seem recharged.

Ms. Carpenter spoke about clinical education and workforce development. She also spoke about the senior nursing student externship, and said Memorial Hospital has had a large class of new RNs, many coming from WMCC.

Mr. Smith discussed how staffing has been difficult. He was formerly the CTE Director at Littleton High School, and is now serving as Principal. He discussed how some seniors have been participating in meaningful internships. One of his goals is to help students have a path lined up for when they graduate high school.

Mr. Riendeau also discussed the difficulty with recruiting new employees. They are at about 45% employment vacancy at the Department of Corrections. He is working with local high schools to get students interested in working at the correctional facility.

Mr. Carpenter echoed the sentiments regarding the difficulty with staffing.

Mr. Ellis let the group know that there is a Community College System of New Hampshire Trustee Meeting tomorrow. He is also co-chairing the search committee for the next president for WMCC.

President Lloyd discussed his upcoming transition to the position of CCSNH Vice Chancellor and announced that Chancellor Rubinstein has appointed Melanie Robbins to the position of Interim

President. Ms. Robbins will serve in this role through February 1, 2024. President Lloyd also let the group know that committee members may be asked to participate in the presidential search process happening this fall. Ms. Robbins said that she was honored to be asked and she looks forward to supporting the college through this transition.

College Updates

President Lloyd discussed the property across the street. The college has received approval to sell it. Profits from the sale will go back to the college. The college is looking to sell land in Littleton; the college currently owns the neighboring home's driveway.

Dr. Miller gave a few updates regarding Academic Affairs. She is focused on collaboration with AVEC (Androscoggin Valley Education Collaborative), with the goal of providing opportunities and pathways for students. The Prison Education Program is looking to onboard their second cohort.

Mr. Fader is in the middle of the fiscal year audit. The college finished in the black last fiscal year. There are a few projects the college would like to see completed, such as replacement of the boilers in Berlin. He anticipates FY24 to be a year that the college will break even. The college has a healthy reserve and currently has a 10% vacancy rate.

Dr. Desmarais gave an update from Student Affairs. Staff and faculty have been making sure students are aware of services available to them. Students know if there is a need for academic support, to seek help as soon as possible. Admissions representatives have been traveling around the North Country to attend college fairs and mini fairs at high schools.

Ms. Robbins had a busy summer at the Academic Centers. The lease for the Conway Academic Center ended in August. The Veterinary Assistant program moved to Berlin and the Massage program moved to Littleton. The Diesel Heavy Equipment Technology program has also moved to Littleton. The new Advanced Technology Building should be complete by October 9. In the meantime, Diesel students are being taught out of the Littleton National Guard Armory.

Ms. Taillon discussed how the college has recently seen success filling vacant positions. Some positions have been harder to fill than others.

The college has begun updating the Strategic Plan, as the current Plan ends in the fall. Advisory members may be contacted by consultant Fred King for input regarding what they feel the needs of the college are and what they would like to see happen in the upcoming years.

Adjournment

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

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