Office of the President

PRESIDENT'S COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes for Friday, October 03, 2014

Location: RDMT 322

In Attendance: Diana McCoy, Amanda Sagun, Sharon Lowe, John Coles, Robin Griffin, Barbara Aten, Dan Williams, Tom Alexander, Jennifer Garzon, Beverly Bavaro, Donna Ballard, Bernie Hamm, Karen Cannan, Molly Lingenfelter, Tara Connolly, Katie Kolbet, Jeff Olson, Kurt Ehlers, Maria Sheehan; Recording Secretary: Lisa Farmer

Meeting Called to Order: 10 a.m.

President’s Items:

Tesla

- Great for Reno to even be considered
- Information re: site visit to factory in Fremont
- Will be working with Tesla to define needs

System within a System (SB391)

- Concerns initially raised that Community Colleges not meeting needs of business industry.
- Results: Stay in NSHE, Creation of Committee for Community Colleges, and Creation of Vice Chancellor of Community Colleges.
- Collaboration/Shared Services

TAACCCT Grant

- $9.9M awarded to Nevada Community Colleges; TMCC share is $1.7M
- Focus on Veterans and Diesel Mechanics.

Campus Highlights:

Dr. Kurt Ehlers gave an update on the increased number of Mathematics and Physical Science students. He shared that educators in other higher education organizations are recommending TMCC math and science classes to their students. There was a growing appreciation of the programs being offered at TMCC. A recent STEM club meeting was extremely well attended; Dr. Ehlers received compliments on the program from colleagues at the university. Katie Kolbet added that since 2007, she has had a relationship with Orvis School of Nursing, which sends many of their students to TMCC for Chemistry classes. With the existing regulations about the number of credits that students can transfer, science at TMCC. With the increase, there are some capacity issues that have come up. There is a need for more resources.

Chef Karen Cannan was happy to report that the Culinary program recently went through their accreditation renewal and received the highest level of scoring not only for culinary, but in baking and pastry as well. They received the longest accreditation term possible, seven years. The Culinary program had been busy over the summer fundraising at Farmers’ Markets and the Reno-Tahoe Open. For 2015, RTO has asked that Chef Cannan handle all the concessions, which is a huge fundraiser for the program. Some of her students recently attended a national competition in which one of them placed 5th in Baking. This same student was selected by some of the competition judges to participate in a television segment with Mike Rowe, the show will airing on CNN.

TMCC is an EEO/AA institution. See http://eeo.tmcc.edu for more information.
Bernie Hamm relayed that the excess credit fee that was recently adopted has generated close to $100,000. Fees were being used in student service programs like Advising and Counseling.

Molly Lingenfelter announced that there were now approximately 100 English major students. They were currently working on a listserv to keep in touch with students who graduate and/or transfer. Her department was looking at ways to streamline classes and possibly implement accelerated classes for basic courses.

Open Discussion:

- **Expected increased focus on Tesla, what happens to Gen Ed (Molly Lingenfelter)**
  Dr. Sheehan explained that although focus was shifting to specific types of programming, the classes needed to give students a good foundation, would not be forgotten. The new $5 fee per weighted credit hour would help to keep up with growth in general education areas.

- **Good Neighbor Policy (Sharon Lowe)**
  Donna Ballard explained that students in communities like Truckee qualified for the Western Undergrad Exchange program. Currently Admissions and Records limits this option to new students, they need only show proof of residency.

- **iNtegrate II (Bernie Hamm)**
  There were significant concerns about the implementation of new software, especially by those that had been at TMCC during the transition to PeopleSoft. Dr. Sheehan replied that having Frank Woodbeck now serving as an advocate for the community colleges, was great to help the colleges with these types of concerns. Mr. Woodbeck understands what the impact will be and what the needs will be for each college. A system had not yet been chosen, Dr. Sheehan expected that a decision would come from the Chancellor’s Office within the next month.

- **Filling of Vacant Faculty Positions (Katie Kolbet)**
  Dr. Sheehan explained there was movement to fill vacant positions. A recent list had been provided detailing which positions would be filled at this time. Please contact your Dean to check on specific positions.

- **Student Photos in PeopleSoft (Jeff Olson)**
  Jeff asked if restrictions could be lifted off of PeopleSoft to allow instructors to print rosters with student pictures. Bernie said it is possible, and had been discussed. There were concerns about who would maintain those photos to ensure they were current and represented the student.

- **Capacity/Resource Concerns (Katie Kolbet)**
  With the increased attendance in courses like Chemistry, Math and other sciences, there was a need for more space for students, not just for instruction but study areas and places where students could work on group projects together. Access to the tutoring center was maxed out and many students are not able to get in. There are some safety concerns with one of the Chemistry labs in the Red Mountain Building. Discussion followed regarding including important changes like these capacity concerns in the update of the Master Plan. There was some frustration that revisions to the lab had been on the table for several years, but had seen no progress.

- **Performing Arts Center (Karen Cannan)**
  Chef Cannan inquired if the plans for the new Performing Arts Center were in motion. Dr. Sheehan explained the concept and idea were out there. There had been some contributions made to get the project started and she would continue to work on finding more donors as the project was estimated at $25 million. Chef Cannan asked if she could be part of the planning for the kitchen area, since it was proposed that this building would house special events for the college of which she anticipated would need to be catered. Dr. Sheehan agreed it was important to have someone that would be working in that area look at the plans.
Future Agenda Items—Next Meeting November 14, 2014

- **StraighterLine Program**: Causing a lot of discussion among Faculty
- **Funding Formula/F&W Policy**: Possible Incentives; Fee that is refunded upon completion?
- **Discuss the 15 to Finish Campaign**: Does this set students up for failure?
- **Strategies for Getting Students to do Online Evaluations**: Knowing that participation will be affected by the change to online submission, may need to consider how evaluations are looked at.
- **Performing Arts Center**

**Meeting Adjourned**: noon