

General Advisory Committee
March 17, 2011

Present: Craig Anderson, Kay Baker, David Berg, John Brodrick, Readus Fletcher, Shaan Hamilton, Nancy Jacobsen, Lorrie Louder, Jean Ness, Phyllis Novitskie, Dorothy Richburg, Laura Savin, Jean Shomphe, Kim Stecher, Tim Strand, Bob Samon, Donovan Schwichtenberg

Excused: Karl Benson, Dan Bostrom, Traci Gauer, Paul Huot, Christina McCoy, Erin Murphy, Joe Spartz, Bob Widerski, David Wold

Absent: Cecile Bedor, Harry Melander, Kou Moua

Guest: Paul DeGeest, Saint Paul College Foundation Chair

John Brodrick called the meeting to order at 4:28 pm. John introduced Saint Paul College Foundation Chair, Paul DeGeest. Paul announced that in honor of Donovan Schwichtenberg's retirement, the Foundation is starting an endowed scholarship fund in his name. The Foundation is contributing \$5,000 to the scholarship. Paul invited the General Advisory Committee members to also contribute.

Laura Savin stated that everyone should have received an invitation to the recognition event which will be on Tuesday, April 5th from 5:00-7:00pm.

Discussion took place and the consensus was to have everyone on the General Advisory Committee contribute so that there is 100% participation. June Schifsky will email this information to the General Advisory Committee.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the March 17, 2011 agenda. ***The motion carried.***

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the January 20, 2011 minutes as written. ***The motion carried.***

Introduction of New Board Members

Kay Baker was welcomed to the General Advisory Committee. Kay is the Director of Communications for Health East.

Secretary Position for 2010-11

Phyllis Novitskie reported that she has not found a volunteer to serve as the 2010-11 Secretary. This position will need to be filled by the May 12th General Advisory Committee agenda.

Open Positions for 2011-12

At the May meeting the Secretary for 2010-11 will move into the Vice-Chair position and the Vice-Chair will become Chair for 2011-12. This is an action item and will be voted on at the May meeting.

A nominating committee is needed to fill open membership positions.

President's Succession Procession Update

The search for a new president is a MnSCU process. Rachelle Schmidt is the College's liaison. This week five candidates have been on campus meeting with faculty/staff, students and community members. Presidential searches are also taking place for Anoka and Century colleges.

Phyllis Novitskie and Readus Fletcher are representatives on the search committee. Bob Samon is a student representative and Tim Strand is a faculty union representative. The search committee will meet next week and choose the three finalists who will be forwarded to the Chancellor. The Chancellor and a Board of Trustees member will choose the new President and bring it forward to the April Board of Trustees meeting where it will be announced.

Budget Update – Shaan Hamilton

Donovan announced that the College received the Excellence in Financial Management award from the Office of Chancellor for its significant contributions to increased efficiency and effectiveness of finances and administrative services throughout the College.

Shaan gave a financial trends and highlights for FY2010 presentation. The presentation includes a brief history of the College; strategic goals; enrollment growth; student statistics; and the financial health of the College. Factors that affect the financial health of the College include revenue (enrollment, tuition, State and Federal dollars) and expenses (increase salary and benefit expenses).

Minnesota colleges have the 2nd highest tuition rate in the country. Saint Paul College's tuition is about in the middle of the MnSCU colleges rates. The current tuition rate is \$149.65 per credit. ARRA funds paid \$2.93 per credit resulting in students paying \$146.72 per credit. There will be no ARRA funds for FY2011.

The College is developing a couple of different budget scenarios. . A 5% increase in tuition would still leave a \$400,000 deficit. A 2.9% tuition increase would leave an \$800,000 deficit. Our budget will not be finalized until the legislature determines what our state appropriations will be.

Discussion

The question was asked if the College's operating expense is healthy due better efficiency or more students. Shaan replied both, because increased enrollment is part of the reason and staff are more efficient. There are more students receiving services,

with the same number of staff to serve them. The state continues to allocate fewer dollars to support colleges; so the cost of tuition has had to increase. It costs a full-time student about \$5,000 per year to attend.

Donovan indicated that our college is still more affordable than private colleges. Four year colleges will have a much larger financial problem as they count more heavily on their foundations and because of the poor economy giving has decreased.

Lorie Louder has some information on the St. Paul Port Authority Trillion BTU fund which offers cost saving loan repayment program for energy efficiency projects. She and Shaan will meet and discuss this.

Budget will remain on the agenda for the May 12th meeting.

Employer “Friend Raiser Pilot” - Craig Anderson

Craig reported that at the last meeting, David Berg recommended that the College develop a pilot project that invites employers, who hire our graduates, to the College as a friend raising event.

Craig is implementing David’s suggestion and in spring of 2011 the first group of employers will be invited. This group will consist of employers that hire our machine tool technology students. In fall of 2011 another group will be invited, followed by a new group every few months.

General Discussion/Comments

Tim Strand is involved with the Associated Contractors organization and asked if the General Advisory Committee would be interested in having a presentation from them. The consensus was to have Tim contact the organization and see if the presentation could be part of the May 12th meeting.

Chairperson’s Report – John Brodrick

No report

President’s Report – Donovan Schwichtenberg

- The College made a bonding presentation to MnSCU requesting a STEM building. This was done to get the process started. The College doesn’t expect to make the list as there are a lot of other colleges being carried over from last year.
- The College held its annual new employees reception.
- The Program Advisory Committee dinner was very successful. It was a friendraising event.
- In May the College will be hosting a rotary rotation day.
- Donovan is meeting with all Saint Paul area legislatures to discuss budget concerns.

Adjournment:

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. ***The motion carried.*** The meeting adjourned at 6:02pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
June Schifsky