

General Advisory Committee
May 12, 2011

Present: Craig Anderson, Shaan Hamilton, Randy Bailey, David Berg, John Brodrick, Rasoul Dastmozd, Traci Gauer, Paul Huot, Nancy Jacobsen, Peggy Kenndy, Lorrie Louder, Christina McCoy, Jean Ness, Dorothy Richburg, Robert Samon, Rachelle Schmidt, Donovan Schwichtenberg, Jean Shomphe, Joe Spartz, Tim Strand, Bob Widerski, David Wold

Excused: Cecile Bedore, Dan Bostrom, Erin Murphy, Phyllis Novitskie

Absent: Kay Baker, Karl Benson, Harry Melander, Kim Stecher

The meeting was called to order at 4:10p.m. Donovan introduced President Elect Rassoul Dastmozd. Rassoul is from Clark College in Washington State. He emigrated from Iran in the late 1970's and is a first generation college graduate. He obtained his bachelor's degree from Southwest State University; his master's degree from Drake University; and his PhD from Colorado State.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. *The motion carried.*

Approval of Minutes

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

Fitness Center Tour

The General Advisory Committee toured the fitness center.

Budget – Shaan Hamilton

Until the legislature session ends the College cannot be sure what the final budget numbers will be. If there is no budget decision by the end of the legislative session, the governor can call a special session. If there is no budget decision by June 30th the government shuts down. In the past MnSCU has been exempt from the shut down.

Shaan requested approval by the General Advisory Committee on the budget he is presenting today. The College's budget is based on a 3% tuition increase and 4.8% enrollment growth. These numbers may need to be amended, depending upon the legislature. Saint Paul College is in good financial shape.

The College is projecting a \$500,000 deficit for FY12. For every 1% decrease in appropriation the College loses \$200,000 in revenue. Increased enrollment helps to offset the deficit

Discussion and comments:

David Berg suggested the College purchases insurance for write-offs. Shaan indicated that it is a good suggestion; however, he is not certain the College could purchase such insurance.

Joe Spartz asked why the benefits were skyrocketing. Shaan indicated these are state projections and that there has been a debate within Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) regarding their projections. The side that argued for the most conservative forecast prevailed.

Peggy Kennedy expects the College's future growth to be in the Liberal Arts and Sciences area, Pre-Engineering, and Career Pathway Academy. The College is also focusing on increasing retention.

Donovan indicated the College has more growth opportunities than the suburban Colleges because the St. Paul and Minneapolis high school dropout rate is higher and a smaller number of graduates go on to College. This gives the College a larger pool to recruit from. The high schools are work on retaining these students and helping them to be successful. Programs such as the Power of YOU encourage students to go on to College.

He also stated that 600 teachers have been laid off in the MnSCU system and 60 programs have been closed. Saint Paul College has had one layoff and it was not because of economics, it was related to low enrollment.

Paul Huot stated that there used to be a flood of electricians, so the colleges cut back their electrical programs. Now because of retirement within the industry there is a need for electricians. The same thing happened with the manufacturing industry. Paul encourages the College to be flexible and to bring back programs as needed.

A motion was made and seconded to support the budget as presented, with the understanding that there may need to be adjustments made based on legislative funding. *The motion carried.*

2010-2011 Secretary Position

There was no secretary for this fiscal year.

2011-12 General Advisory Officers Approval

John Brodrick reported that Tracy Gauer has graciously volunteered to serve as secretary or vice-chair of the committee, depending on its needs. Kim Stecher moves into the Chair position. John indicated he would be willing to serve as Interim Vice Chair until a Vice Chair can be found. A motion was made and seconded to approve Tracy Gauer as secretary of the General Advisory Committee for 2011-12. *The motion carried.*

2011-12 Open Positions/Nominating Committee

John Brodrick requested volunteers to serve on a Nominating Committee. There are five open positions that need to be filled. The Nominating Committee would work on filling these positions between now and the September meeting. David Berg, Dorothy Richburg, Christina McCoy, Tracy Gauer, Kim Stecher, and John Brodrick will serve on the committee. The nominating committee will bring forward the names of new members to the September meeting.

Employer Friend Raiser Pilot Update – Craig Anderson

Because of the limited Marketing staff availability due to the many events that had to be planned this past semester, Dave Berg's suggestion of bringing in various employer groups to visit with our instructors had to be delayed until fall semester. We will schedule multiple employer events throughout the coming academic year to focus on selected programs at the college.

However, it has been decided to table the project until fall because employers have been very involved in other College events.

The College's Annual Report and Flame magazine were distributed. The fall course schedule will be mailed out in early June.

General Discussion

Tracy Gauer announced that the Creative Arts High School is moving to a downtown location. St. Paul Public Schools has met with Harding High School Principal and City personnel to discuss attaching a community center to Harding High School for community education and evening classes. This might be an opportunity for partnership with Saint Paul College.

Dorothy Richburg announced a summer six week technology camp for grades 8-12. Anyone who wishes more information should contact Dorothy.

Nancy Jacobsen announced that ISEEK is launching a MN Green Career Portal. It will be working closely with DEED.

The General Advisory Committee congratulated Donovan on his retirement.

Chairperson Report

No report

President's Report

Donovan presented John Brodrick with a plaque recognizing and thanking him for serving as chair this past year.

- The College has had record breaking enrollment for the last six years.
- There were 1132 students eligible to graduate.
- The College was awarded a Gates Grant relating to fast track programs. It will receive \$100,000 next year and \$1Million the following year.

Donovan thanked everyone for their support and encourages everyone to continue with their support.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:50pm.

Respectfully submitted by: June Schifsky