



**WMCC COLLEGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 5, 2019**

**Present:** President Chuck Lloyd, Ben Gaetjens-Oleson, Kate Host, Pamela Laflamme (Chair), Mike Laracy, Al Smith

**Absent:** Cathy Conway

**Guests:** Colbie Ayotte, David Backler, Janice Crawford, Scott Fields, Carrie Gendreau, Julie King, Martha Laflamme, Kristen Miller, Paul Pinkham, Melanie Robbins, Gretchen Taillon

The White Mountains Community College Advisory Committee convened on September 5, 2019, at 11:30 AM in Bistro A.

**Approval of Previous Minutes**

A motion was made by Ms. Laflamme and seconded by Mr. Gaetjens-Oleson to approve the meeting minutes of April 3, 2019. A vote was taken, all were in favor.

**Introductions**

President Lloyd announced that there were several guests in attendance who have been invited to become members of the WMCC Advisory Committee. Introductions were made. Following the meeting, Ms. Taillon will ask these individuals (plus two other potential new members who could not attend this meeting) for copies of their resumes, which will be submitted to the CCSNH Board of Trustees for consideration of membership at their next meeting.

**Mission, Roles, and Expectations**

Chair Laflamme discussed the goals of the Advisory Committee, including to assist with building relationships and partnerships throughout the north country. She and President Lloyd would like bylaws to be created that will outline roles and expectations of committee members, along with term limits and a minimum number of meetings that will be held per year. They will also be pulling together a subcommittee to work on the creation of a mission statement.

**College Updates**

*Academic Affairs Update (Kristen Miller)*

Ms. Miller informed the group that longtime Running Start Coordinator Jody Camille recently retired and the position has been filled by Christine Grant. The title has changed to *Coordinator of Educational Partnerships and Access*, as the position has evolved to have a more active role in high schools.

This is the second year that we have had a culinary apprenticeship through the OMNI Mount Washington Resort, and there are currently six students enrolled. It has been approved by the Department of Labor as a registered apprenticeship program. We are also currently looking at apprenticeships for our Advanced Manufacturing program.

Two new programs introduced this fall are a Conservation Law Enforcement Degree and the New Hampshire Professional Education Competencies Certificate. Marketing for the North Country Education Teacher program will launch soon. Academic Affairs has also been focusing on lowering the cost of course materials in order to make classes more accessible and affordable for students.

*Enrollment/Advising (Martha Laflamme)*

Ms. Laflamme announced that Dr. Mark Desmarais was recently hired to fill the new position of Director of Enrollment

Management. Dr. Desmarais previously worked at WMCC as the Admissions Counselor from 2003-2013. His focus areas will be admissions and student onboarding and retention.

Ms. Laflamme reported that the College budgeted to be down 5% for credits sold, and that all CCSNH colleges are down this fall.

Ms. Laflamme discussed the new programs Ms. Miller previously mentioned. There are 15 students enrolled in this first semester of the Conservation Law Program. The New Hampshire Professional Education Competencies Program is a hybrid program, with some online and some in-person instruction. WMCC is one of only a few schools that offer this program. In order to register for the program, one must already be employed as a teacher.

Ms. Laflamme discussed the new advising model the college has implemented this fall. There will be one college guide assigned to each of the campuses. Interviews will be taking place next Monday for a new position which will oversee advising throughout all the WMCC locations.

President Lloyd directed everyone's attention to the *Fast Facts* sheet created by Institutional Researcher Suzanne Wasileski, which has important statistics regarding WMCC.

#### *Budget (Scott Fields)*

Mr. Fields said that FY19 was a strong year financially due to conservative spending. Toward the end of the fiscal year, college leadership used remaining funds to purchase much needed equipment and materials, including new fleet vehicles, a new snowplow, new computers, and new equipment in the Wellness Center, and also set funds aside into reserve. The Child Development Center is officially off the books, and the college was able to absorb the \$1,000,000 deficit. The Center has spun off into its own non-profit organization, North Woods Learning Center.

#### *Welcome Center (Scott Fields)*

Mr. Fields announced that the college now has a Welcome Center, a centralized area where students can go with questions in areas ranging from financial aid to registration, make payments, fill out a FAFSA, and more. This will allow students to be assisted in a timely manner in one location.

#### *Academic Centers (Melanie Robbins)*

Ms. Robbins announced that the new science lab at the North Conway Academic Center is up and running. In the Veterinary Program there were 14 graduates from the first class in May, and there are 12 new students this fall. In Littleton there are 11 students in the Driving Instructor program, which is taught in a combination of onsite and online.

#### *Student Senate (Kate Host)*

Ms. Host discussed welcome back events that were held for students at the start of the semester, including a tie-dye t-shirt event and an ice cream social. The Student Senate's first meeting of the year will be held next week, and new officers will be voted in within a few weeks.

#### *Golf Tournament (President Lloyd)*

Over 20 teams participated in the first annual "Golfing the Gap" golf tournament in June, which raised over \$15,000. It was a great day, and the college received overwhelmingly positive feedback from attendees. The next tournament will be held on June 25, again at the Androscoggin Valley Country Club. The planning committee will begin meeting soon, and Advisory Committee members will be invited and encouraged to join in on the planning if interested.

### *President's Updates*

President Lloyd discussed the Department of Education's *Career Academy*, an alternative option for high school seniors, where they can complete their high school degree requirements for graduation while simultaneously earning college credits. They will take a 'thirteenth' year of school one of the community colleges where they will earn a college certificate at no cost to the student, as it will be funded by the DOE.

President Lloyd announced a new partnership with Plymouth State University. WMCC will offer students denied admission to PSU the opportunity to complete their freshman year at PSU, but as WMCC students taught by WMCC faculty. Students will live on the PSU campus and have access to all PSU facilities. A group of WMCC staff has been meeting with staff from PSU to work out the logistics of the partnership, which will start in fall 2020.

### **Regional/Individual Updates**

Mr. Smith feels that the high schools and college need to ensure parents are being informed of all the opportunities available for students through the college.

Mr. Pinkham discussed the need for getting skilled, well-qualified workers into the workforce.

Mr. Laracy congratulated WMCC on its high graduation rate, which he referenced from the Fast Facts sheet.

Mr. Backler discussed the importance of moving students on to post-secondary education and how businesses are in need of competent, qualified workers.

Ms. King discussed the value of the relationship between Berlin High School and WMCC, and how important it is that we keep communication open. She's hoping there will be further outreach at the high schools. Another presentation to students similar to one previously given by President Lloyd, Jody Camille and Harmony Elliott was discussed, as was something similar for parents.

Mr. Gaetjens-Oleson discussed renovations to the White Mountains Regional High School CTE Center. Community members will vote on a bond for these renovations in March. He said the school district is looking at all of the services they provide and looking forward to increased collaboration.

Ms. Crawford discussed the importance of the college utilizing advisory committee members on an ongoing basis throughout the year. She spoke about the Stay & Thrive MWV program for young professionals in the Mount Washington Valley. Ms. Crawford also spoke about how she feels there needs to be more outreach at high schools and that high schools should teach courses on fundraising in leadership classes.

Ms. Gendreau discussed the importance of internships and the hands-on experience students receive. She suggested a *So You Want to Run for Office* certificate that could be offered to members of the community considering running for political office.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Colbie Ayotte

Human Resources/President's Office