

ACADEMIC SENATE
January 24, 2008
4:00 PM
Brockmann Conference Room

Members Present –

Jay Howland, Larry Strizich, Brian Gilmartin, Wane Boysun, Lanny Wilke, Greg Clouse, Joe Callahan

Guest -

Chancellor Rolf Groseth

Call to order -

Greg Clouse called the meeting to order at 4 PM in the Brockmann Conference Room.

Minutes –

No minutes were approved.

Administrative Reports –

none

Old Business:

New Business

Senate President Greg Clouse opened the meeting by explaining that the purpose of this meeting is to meet and have an open discussion with Chancellor Rolf Groseth. Everyone introduced themselves.

Chancellor Groseth expressed his appreciation to Greg for having this meeting so he had the opportunity to meet with the faculty senate. Rolf stated that he is still in the “learning mode” about the issues on this campus. President Gamble has asked that Rolf come to Northern and make an assessment of the campus and take steps to be moving towards stabilization of enrollment and budgetary issues so that we are in a good spot to bring in a new chancellor. Chancellor Groseth expects to be at Northern between 9 and 18 months. Some initial thoughts and areas Rolf discussed were:

- there needs to be decisions made regarding enrollment and budgetary issues. We need to define what kind of an institution we can optimally have the point at which our enrollment is going to flatten out.
- need active involvement of faculty in decision making process
- need to identify and have quality programs
- need to identify the things we do well and the things that serve our region and attract students
- expand on-line learning
- make sure articulation agreements are “buttoned up” so students transferring from colleges that have articulation agreements know what courses will transfer in to Northern
- foster productive work environment for everyone who comes to work on our campus – provide administration support for faculty – have a well-maintained and up-to-date campus
- closer partnership with COT in Great Falls.
- improve communication
- Make this a native American friendly campus
- We need to do whatever it takes to produce loyal and dedicated alumni. Having a good undergraduate experience here for students is important
- Affordability
- we as an institution need to be accountable to Montana State University and the university system and the Board of Regents

Rolf is beginning the process to design a decision making scheme that will be both streamlined and will allow opportunity for input. Communication has been an issue on this campus and he is going to do his best to try and put something out there publicly that says “in general – here’s how information flows and here’s how decisions get made”. He does want there to be a stopping point for those decision because in a sense this campus has been in

a circular decision making process or a spiral – or however you want to call it. Those things to need to be brought to conclusion whether everyone reaches consensus/agreement or not.

Rolf wants to work with the Havre community to ensure that Northern is a good partner and resource for the community.

Faculty attending the meeting expressed the following concerns:

- recruiting and marketing need to be improved. Our fault is that we don't get the word out on what programs we do have. Recruiting and marketing is stale. We need to allocate more funding toward marketing and recruiting. It has to be addressed to make a long term change.
- a suggestion was made the perhaps we needed to offer in-state tuition to out-of-state students in order to attract them to Northern
- part of our problem with reduced enrollment is the fact that we no longer have (because we have "whacked" our secondary ed programs) teachers in the public school system who are recommending Northern to graduating high school students
- we need to contact the Northern alumni counselors in the high schools and enlist their support in getting student to Northern
- we eliminate program to save money but don't look at the long term effect of not having those programs
- we need to recruit more widely
- we need to make the board of regents understand that the small universities cannot be held to the same "10 graduate" rules as the larger universities. How is that fair and what sense does it make?
- We cut programs but don't get rid of faculty – doesn't make sense, now we have the same amount of faculty and less programs to offer
- Anytime a "reduction in programs" hits the news media our enrollment drops
- Our band width of speed of computers on campus needs to be updated. Students can't work in the computer labs – they need to go home where they can download software at a faster rate of speed. Bandwidth and speed has been degrading.
- We need to focus on the fact that students graduating with automotive and diesel degrees have "CAREERS – not jobs - they go on to managements positions – we need to change the parents mindset regarding technical careers
- we need to emphasize the fact that we are changing and improving degrees – NOT cutting programs
- we need to worry about the decisions we are making based on numbers we are obtaining from Banner – Banner numbers are not always correct

Rolf stated that we are slight ahead (at the beginning of spring semester) of where we planned to be. This year it looks like we are going to have a 6 or 7% decline between semesters this year. The variation between this year and next year's budget will be tuition revenue.

President Clouse proposed that the faculty senate begin the process of developing a plan for Northern. It has to be a strong plan that includes partnerships with COTS – it needs to be a good solid plan that can be sold to the full faculty that's a good solid plan for the future of Northern. President Clouse will be sending an e-mail to everyone for input.

Proposals:

Committee Reports – none

Special Reports –

Announcements -

Adjourned – Meeting adjourned

Recording Secretary: Sandi Copenhaver

Minutes ACAD 1/24/2008