

Snowflake/Taylor Silver Creek Campus Community Outreach and Student Focus Group

NOTES

DECEMBER 2, 2010 1:30 – 2:30 & 2:30 – 3:30 P.M.

LC101/SYMPOSIUM

MEETING CALLED BY	Jeanne Swarthout, President and Mark Vest, Vice President for Learning and Student Services
TYPE OF MEETING	Community Outreach Student Focus Group
NOTE TAKER	Susan Olsen, Campus Manager and Emma Hillend, Assistant to the Campus Manager
ATTENDEES	NPC Representatives: Mark Vest, Eric Bishop, Emma Hillend, and Susan Olsen Invited community members and interested students

Discussion topics

OVERVIEW OF CAMPUS, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

DISCUSSION	<p>Facilities – The first permanent buildings on campus were built in 1976 and the Multipurpose Building and Welding Shop were remodeled in 2005 as the Student Center and the Performance Annex. In 1995 the Learning Center was added followed by the Performing Arts Center in 2004. Our last project completed on site was a parking addition in 2008.</p> <p>Programs and services – A quick overview of the programs and services that are available on-site was given with a call for support to be given to the future performance events.</p> <p>NPC’s Home Page – A slide of our website’s Home Page was shown and the highlights were pointed out.</p> <p>Student Statistics – The campus’s student statistics were presented followed by a discussion of the campus reflecting 14 percent of the overall college enrollment and the campus being the second largest location out of the four campuses.</p> <p>NPC’s Mission – The mission, Northland Pioneer College creates, supports and promotes lifelong learning” was referenced.</p>
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SUMMARY OF CURRENT BUDGET STATUS

DISCUSSION	<p>Budget – Educating the new legislators on the importance of continued community college funding especially on the importance of equalization for community college systems outside of Maricopa is very time consuming for our President and administration.</p> <p>NPC Response to current economy – The College has cut our overall budget by 18 percent and the number of our administrators in half. We are working from a baseline funding until a permanent funding formula is created by the new legislature. In the meantime we are actively looking for alternate funding sources; mainly grants.</p>
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HIGHLIGHTS IN INSTRUCTION

DISCUSSION	<p>Faculty in Educational Technology – A new position was created to inspire hybrid teaching environments to assist us with the problems that we face with uneven access to our services.</p> <p>Online education – Moving toward an entire degree online, but we are not there yet.</p> <p>Types of classrooms for distance education – Video, audio with Smart Board technology or Adobe Connect</p> <p>Grant to improve internet resources – To increase bandwidth to triple our current capacity and to provide a redundant backup.</p> <p>Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) – Students use our software from home so that they do not have the expense of having to purchase the student version of the programs that they are learning; like for drafting.</p> <p>Thin Client – Through the use of VDI throughout the College we could save over 40 percent of our computer budget and receive faster and better service at a price of \$200 each instead of our leasing 915 computers. The goal is not to replace all computers with thin clients, only in areas where they are a good fit.</p>
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OVERVIEW OF STRATEGIC PLAN

DISCUSSION	<p>Growth plans – NPC has no capital funding available for facility planning. A Skills Center is needed for our service area and Holbrook and Snowflake/Taylor both have available land to expand.</p> <p>New programs – Dental Hygienist and Health Information Management have support for possible addition to the College when funding becomes available for growth. These programs would provide alternatives for students that are working toward a degree in Nursing and do not get selected for the program.</p>
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RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE COMMUNITY AND STUDENTS

DISCUSSION	<p>Throughout the meeting the following issues were discussed between the attendees:</p> <p>Timing of this meeting – It would be better to hold this type of the meeting in October or March. Being held by</p> <p>Future Status of Silver Creek Campus - It has been heard throughout the community that the campus could be closed due to the current economy and budget situation. Is the College going to close this campus? The administration and board would never want to close a campus or center, but with the current economic situation in the State we have to plan for what might happen. Will the community be given an opportunity to increase local property taxes to keep the Silver Creek Campus in our community? The local communities encourage their high school students to stay home and go to NPC and we are looking for industries such as power, wood, and sustainable education to come to our area. This area has always believed in and supports education and this can be seen by the current remodeling of the area's first high school, the Snowflake Academy. The area needs to have an educated workforce to work for any industry that would come here. The local communities would like to encourage the College to keep this location open.</p> <p>Nursing Program slots available - Can the nursing program increase the number of students accepted? The number of slots available is not a budget or NPC decision. The Board of Nursing calculates the need and approves how many slots that we can have.</p> <p>Radiology Program – Radiology is an expensive program with low employability so it is not a program that we are considering.</p>
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CLASS AVAILABILITY

DISCUSSION	<p>Not enough science classes – With two faculty retiring it has left the College short in faculty to cover the demand but the problem is being addressed.</p> <p>Taking science classes for alternate community colleges – Is an "A" from an on-line science class from a different community college as good as an "A" from NPC? Where the courses are taken is not part of the evaluation process. What matters is overall GPA and HESI test scores. Most students do better on the HESI test if they received their sciences from live, hands-on instruction.</p>
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INSTRUCTION ISSUES

DISCUSSION	<p>Course difficulty and teaching strategies – Problems with instruction should be taken to the appropriate dean. Knowing that it is important to keep a good GPA when applying for the Nursing Program is made more difficult if the instructors do not teach various learning styles when difficult information is being taught.</p> <p>Why do NAVIT students get to take all the science slots and then they drop out? – NAVIT actually provides additional slots that would not be made available if they were not paying for the sections that they request. If they do not fill all of their seats they offer them to the general population.</p>
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