
INSTITUTIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

Friday, September 24, 2021

9:00 am to Noon

Truckee Meadows Community College

via Zoom

1. Roll Call:

IAC Members: BJ North, Chair; Council Members: Robert Chisel, Dr. Sesh Commuri, Dr. Mindy Lokshin, Steve Reid

Guests: NSHE Regent Carol Del Carlo, Vice Chancellor Crystal Abba, Assistant Vice Chancellor Craig von Collenberg

Ex Officio: Darian Richards, Student Government Association (SGA) President; Cheryl Cardoza (proxy for Amy Cavanaugh), Nevada Faculty Alliance Representative; Tina May, Classified Council, President

Administrators/Faculty/Staff: President Karin Hilgersom, Vice President of Student Services and Diversity, Estela Gutierrez, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Jeff Alexander, Associate Vice President Elena Bubnova, Dean of Technical Sciences Barbara Walden, Dean of Life Sciences, Allied Health, and Public Safety, Dr. Julie Ellsworth, Dean of Math and Physical Science Anne Flesher, Interim Executive Director of Facilities and Capital Planning, Dr. Ayodele Akinola, Interim Executive Director of Budget and Planning, Elise Bunkowski, Deputy General Counsel Kiah Beverly-Graham, Academic Advisement Director, Dr. Natalie Brown, Interim Dean of Liberal Arts, Ron Marston, Admissions and Records Director, Andy Hughes, Special Assistant to the President, Dr. Dana Ryan, and Administrative Assistant and Recording Secretary, Valerie Kelley

Absent: Council Members: Nancy McCormick, Debra Biersdorff, Marissa Brown, Kris McLean, and Joseph Nannini

A quorum was not present, no action will be taken.

2. Public Comment

Chair North called for public comment, there was none. Public comment was closed.

3. Approval of Minutes

a) May 7, 2021

This item was tabled due to lack of quorum.

4. President's Update

a) Fall 2021 Update: Opening, COVID Mitigation, Strategic Projects, Focus

President Hilgersom introduced the new officers for the Student Government Association (SGA) President Darian Richards, Classified Council President Tina May, and Faculty Senate Chair Virginia Irintcheva. She thanked them for participating in the IAC and is looking forward to the academic year working with these campus leaders.

Dr. Hilgersom said the Fall re-opening of TMCC campuses went smoothly with both faculty and staff back to in-person operations. Students were happy to return to in-person classes and be on campus. TMCC recently held the rescheduled

grand opening of the Sports and Fitness Center. The ceremony was joined by former TMCC President, Dr. Maria Sheehan, who the weight room is named after.

The COVID-19 Crisis Management Team continues to meet and work to balance public health and safety of faculty, staff, and students with providing quality educational experiences. Due to increases in infection rates, TMCC will be rotating staff in non-front facing positions to remote work schedules to reduce occupancy and the possibility of exposure to the COVID-19 virus.

President Hilgersom was happy to report there are several strategic projects underway including the following:

- a) Oddie Theater Plans, relocation of the TMCC Theater to Sparks
- b) Grand Sierra Resort (GSR), offering onsite industry required courses for GSR employees
- c) SANDI Grant, creating curriculum for HVAC in a virtual environment with the use of VR goggles
- d) Focus on Retention, concentrated efforts to maintain and/or increase Fall to Fall enrollment for 2-year degree seekers

Council Member Commuri asked about TMCC's current enrollment. President Hilgersom was happy to report that after some early analysis that showed enrollment down in double digits, final counts show TMCC is down 5% in enrollment. She congratulated everyone for joint outreach efforts to bolster enrollment. The pandemic was still taking a toll, but some divisions like Technical Science are seeing big increases in enrollment. Through student survey results, TMCC is seeing that underrepresented groups of students were hit particularly hard through this pandemic and many have opted not to return.

b) Strategic Master Plan

President Hilgersom shared that when looking at membership for the upcoming year, it was noted that two individuals who have been on the IAC practically since its inception were ready to term out. Council Members according to the NSHE guidelines can only serve two four-year terms. This was extremely unfortunate because these two members' contributions to the IAC have been significant. In order to retain members of valued community groups, Dr. Hilgersom has asked the Chancellor to allow for three ex-officio positions on the IAC to include representatives from EDAWN, the Washoe County School District, and TMCC Foundation. This would allow Council Members Nancy McCormick and Debra Biersdorff to remain on the IAC as active members and also keep these seats available for representatives of their organizations, should they leave for any reason.

5. Update

a) Vice Chancellor of Community Colleges Update

Vice Chancellor Abba provided some history on the Board of Regents Community College Committee formed in 2015. Based on input with Regents, Presidents, and dialogue with Legislators, she was looking to revise the committee to focus more on a workforce charge. The Committee will be meeting in December and then will start to meet in conjunction with the Board of Regents starting in March.

Work has been started by the AB450 Committee created by Governor Sisolak to potentially pull community colleges out of the existing NSHE system. The Committee was created with help from the Governor's office and is co-chaired by the Chancellor and a private industry representative. Workforce committees will also be part of the discussions but have not yet been formed. Vice Chancellor Abba hoped to have more information at the next IAC meeting. More information about the legislation can be found [here](#).

Vice Chancellor Abba provided an update on the Chancellor's strategic planning efforts. Previous work had been done to establish the goals, Chancellor Rose was working on a formal map to accomplish those goals.

A report will be provided to the Board of Regents in 2022 as work will continue with help from Vice Chancellor Caleb Cage through May 2022. There was discussion about keeping a focus on the community college's transfer mission as well as workforce development.

b) Faculty Senate Update

Faculty Senate Chair Virginia Irintcheva had provided a written report for the meeting materials. She was not in attendance, but any questions could be relayed back to her. There were no questions.

c) Classified Council Update

Classified Council President Tina May provided a written report included in the meeting materials. There were no questions.

d) Student Government Association Update

SGA President Darian Richards shared that there were five open Senator positions that they were looking to fill. The SGA was working with several different departments to get the vaccine mandate messaging out to students. SGA officers were working with faculty and staff to schedule presentations for students to learn about what SGA does and encourage students to be involved. Several events were coming up including a Club Fair and an Adopt a Park clean-up day with Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful.

Chair North asked what Ms. Richards was seeing as the biggest challenge during her term. President Richards said it was getting more students involved in the student government process and other SGA activities. Due to the pandemic, there are a lot of returning students who have never been on campus due to remote instruction. SGA was working to introduce them to the opportunities and activities available.

6. Presentation: NSHE Workforce Development Initiatives

Assistant Vice Chancellor Craig von Collenberg gave a PowerPoint presentation (Attachment A) on NSHE's current efforts related to workforce development, mainly focused on the following:

- a) SNAP Employment & Training
- b) Project SANDI
- c) Nevada Alliance for Youth Apprenticeship
- d) State Level Workforce System Alignment
- e) A Workforce & Talent Development Task Force

Chair North said terms like vocational training and workforce training seem to have a negative connotation, there's a false impression that students in those programs not getting a "real" education. With programs such as surgical technicians and robotics these are well respected, rigorous curriculum, the vernacular seems like a disservice to those students and graduates. In her industry and in the private sector, there is a need for employees with critical thinking skills and have the ability to adapt to changing environments and skillsets, they must be lifelong learners. She was encouraged by the partnership with GSR as it addresses this desire to upskill existing employees.

Assistant Vice Chancellor von Collenberg agreed whole-heartedly that's why it's the system's job to embed the critical thinking and desire to keep learning in traditional educational system and not just try to teach it when someone is looking

for a job. It requires a shift in how we teach students and approach traditional curriculum. Chair North added that the transferability of skills is so important for both students and employers and critical in today's business environment. President Hilgersom agreed that a lot of work was needed in the messaging and marketing of these programs to combat that perceived first impression. She was confident that the current NSHE team is perfect to develop strategies and practices and improve the workforce/education system. She echoed that a student needs to be able to think critically and quickly, while continually learning new skills as needed. Chair North asked that Assistant Vice Chancellor von Collenberg come back to the IAC with an update in the future. She also encouraged him to use the IAC for input, comments, advice, this was a well-rounded group of business and community members who want to help as part of their role on the IAC, but also to advance the workforce and number of qualified, educated employees in general.

Cheryl Cardoza, Nevada Faculty Alliance (NFA) President, explained how her department, English, is working to integrate their curriculum into traditional workforce training to allow students to potentially transfer and seek advanced degrees. The transfer mission and workforce mission have to be combined and work together.

Council Member Commuri said regarding the Task Force charge, it's important to recognize where we are as a state and where we want to go. Strategic planning to fill the talent deficits is necessary. Sometimes when people drill down on plans, they lose sight of the goals. You can get bogged down in metrics and statistics, if people don't understand the overall points of measurement and it can be difficult to garner buy-in. Assistant Vice Chancellor von Collenberg welcomed the input and encouraged IAC Members to communicate with President Hilgersom with input as she is the representative for TMCC on the Task Force.

7. Presentation: Legislative Outlook for TMCC and NSHE

a) Discussion regarding but not limited to successful existing workforce partnership, what else is needed, and how the IAC can help promote the partnerships

President Hilgersom said as a follow-up to the last item, she was interested in what the IAC thought was working related to workforce partnerships and what else was needed. Council Member Reid said as a representative from the logistics management and supply chain industry, he thought the collaboration between business and the college occurring in the Center for Applied Logistics Management was working well. That in combination with the advisory committee was beneficial. Council Member Chisel said the partnership with the GSR was a great start to breaking into an area (tourism) that desperately needs workforce training. It would be great to see that expand to other properties in the community.

Council Member Lokshin said from the TMCC Foundation standpoint, the workforce development information is exciting and critical for fundraising. Being able to clearly explain what the college is providing in terms of training to truly meet the needs and goals for growth of the workforce is essential to develop support to assist in those programs.

Council Member Commuri although there have been other epidemics in the past, COVID still blindsided us. The last eighteen months have left everyone just trying to keep their heads above water. He expected that in the next two years, there could be lingering turmoil related to the pandemic. Issues with supply chains, gaps in manufacturing, and staffing shortages will make things extremely tough. He thought the effect of that will lead people to the universities and colleges, which will require additional efforts, while the slow down of resources might have adverse impacts and we should be prepared to address some worst-case scenarios in the next two years.

He was happy to assist in planning for such instances. Discussion followed regarding possible impacts of supply chain and manufacturing interruptions and the labor shortage and the adoption of different social patterns related to education, spending, and the necessity for flexibility.

8. Listening Session:

a) IAC Council Member Take-Aways

Council Member Reid shared that EDawn helped facilitate bringing Skill Up (Level Up) to the community. His business was participating in the program that helps to steer displaced workers into another industry by providing training and skill development. As they receive candidates, they will be funneling people to TMCC for training and enrollment in Logistics Management degree programs. He was grateful for the change in the membership structure to not lose critical members of the IAC. Council Member Reid thought the presentation was well done and informative.

Council Member Commuri is always pleasantly surprised by the interactions with TMCC, NSHE, and community stakeholders every time he participates in an IAC meeting. He doesn't see this type of combined effort in other places and appreciates the lines of open communication. He was really excited to see the partnership with GSR and other businesses to offer opportunities to their employees.

9. New Business

There was none.

10. Public Comment

Chair North called for public comment, there was none. Public comment was closed.

11. Adjourn

The Meeting Adjourned at 10:51 am.