



**Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Student Center, PDR, April 1, 2015**

Attendees: C. Nunis, L. Giampa, A. Hislop, D. Lambropoulos, T. Corbett, C. Phair, R. Catalano, T. Gorczyca, A. Morse, R. Haskell, K. Terry, M. Burchell, L. Buckley, W. Heineman (Guest), and D. Gingerella (Guest)

Chair Andy Morse called the meeting to order at 2:00pm. The minutes of March 25 were approved.

Spurk Renovation Swing Space

Andy Morse brought to the committee's attention an email in which David Gingerella said that no decision has been made regarding the Little Sprouts Day Care. David expressed the need for people's input on an advisory committee and encouraged people to make known their questions or concerns. Andy stated that this invitation was very positive.

Discussion Topics with Bill Heineman: How do we increase our enrollments and improve our retention rates? Demographically, the college population is projected to shrink in the next few years. We need to use our flexible course initiative to go after adults and the international market. A second strategy is to provide more academic programs that would appeal to the male population, namely a new automotive technology certification which will be started next January and a new engineering program that is aimed at manufacturing. However, on the retention side, the numbers are falling. A substantial minority of our students, four out of ten, who don't survive may be due to reasons that are outside of the college's control. That is a statistic that we would like to change.

On April 6, the All College Assembly will discuss making the **First Year Seminar** proposal a requirement. The college community should be heard from. Bill stated that the meeting would help to reveal whether there was sufficient support to implement this proposal.

The **Flexible Online Course Initiative** is an addition to our partnership with Higher Education Partners, which has its own relationship with Pearson. As online enrollments have gone up at the college, the adult population has still gone down. We need to do a better job of packaging a full program product, with a common navigation system. Separately, with the permission of the federal government, we would like to experiment with competency-based studies, similar in some ways to those offered at SNHU.

Intercession – This year we ran 6 courses, with a total of 30 students, and having a 93% completion rate. If we have all online courses during the intercession, similar to North Shore CC, we could extend them to 4 or 5 weeks while overlapping the spring semester without all the facility challenges.

General Studies Health Specialization Major – We are trying to make that major more valuable by giving students transfer pathways to a bachelor degree, made available by bringing Regis College to 420 Common St.

Should **Keyboarding** be a credited college level skill? Bill requested creative brainstorming around this subject. What problem are we trying to solve and is a credit level course the best way to solve it?

DCAMM Funding Requests with David Gingerella:

David gave a short history describing how the initial DCAMM funding for the Spurk renovation was raised from \$0.00 to \$7.3 to \$15.3 million. At the April 2nd meeting, different options regarding the swing space project will be discussed, in which DCAMM will be asked to give NECC another \$2 million for this purpose. David asked the committee to be supportive and to let people know the value of this long-term benefit, despite the inconveniences during the year-long renovation.

A letter describing the committee's recommendations will be given to Lane on April 15th. Final meeting will be on April 29. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Linda Buckley

Date: April 6, 2015