

**Fort Myers Technical College
School Advisory Council
Minutes of Meeting Held April 20, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 a.m. Attending: Dr. Brian Byrnes; Dr. Dante Ciolfi; Peg Elmore; Suzan Harden; Sam Lawton (FMTC Student Rep); Dr. John Meyer; Bill McCormick; Tyler Patak; Ron Pentiuk; Karrene Ragin; Sandy Shimp; Rich Stevenson; Michele Witlin.

The minutes of the February 16 meeting were approved as presented.

Career Specialist - Michele Witlin

Michele Witlin is new to the career specialist position this year, and she gave an overview of her activities. Michele coordinated visits from high school students, arranged FMTC participation in career and college fairs, oversaw the co-op students, handled job referrals from employers, and assisted in Student Services in whatever ways she could. She researched and arranged for FMTC to be able to try out a new online job referral and search system called CollegeCentral.com. Employers can post jobs on the site, and students can post their resumes. A connection can be made at the convenience of the student and the employer without the delay of leaving phone messages and waiting for responses. Employers can contact Michele if they would like more information about the system.

Mr. Pentiuk asked how many co-op students we have. Michele said there are 8-10 students participating. They must have completed at least 60 percent of their competencies and must have excellent employability skills grades in order to qualify. Unfortunately, federal financial aid guidelines prohibit the participation in co-op learning of students receiving the Pell Grant.

DAC Update – Dr. Dante Ciolfi

Two DAC meetings were held since our last SAC meeting.

At the February 17 meeting, three speakers from the district administrative team made presentations.

Soretta Ralph, Ass't. Sup't, Teaching and Learning, spoke on the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA). She stated that the results of this year's assessments will not be available until in the summer. The district is in the process of developing a series of standards and assessments to be used locally. The three areas of focus are: 1) a balanced scorecard—county standards to evaluate schools; 2) a series of academic standards to guide instruction; 3) tools for progress monitoring.

Reginald Snell, Director of Facility Development and Programming Services, spoke on the plans for the new high school.

Angela Pruitt, Executive Director of Human Resources, talked about the one main area of focus for her department: to hire and retain the best talent available. The district has been bleeding teachers for a few years. She has developed a multi-faceted strategy. The Lee County School District has been represented at several out-of-state career fairs, emphasizing the lifestyle available in Lee County.

At the March 16 meeting, the speakers included Board Member Steve Teuber, who is the liaison between the board and the DAC. He spoke on the issues surrounding the site selection for the new high

FMTC SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting Held April 20, 2016
Page 2

DAC Update (Cont'd.)

school in the Bonita area. The Construction Advisory Committee, the Site Selection Committee, and the Executive District Advisory Council all approved the selection of the Imperial Parkway site.

Ami Desamour, Ass't. Sup't. , Business Services, gave a financial update.

Dwayne Alton, Director of IT Support, reported on the ChromeBook program and said there have been minimal difficulties with it.

Peg asked Dante how many people serve on the District Advisory Council. There is a rep appointed from each School Advisory Council, and about 80 people attend each meeting.

Director's Update – Bill McCormick

Two additional retirements were announced, in addition to those mentioned at the February meeting. Roberta (Bobbie) Ellyatt, Clerk-Typist and the phone voice of FMTC, announced that she will be retiring at the end of July. Mr. McCormick announced that he, too, would be retiring at the end of June. Twenty years in the military and 20 years of service to schools seem to him to be enough! His last day will be June 30. He spoke of the great respect he has for FMTC and of his enjoyment at being part of it.

Although it was announced at the last meeting that the Drafting program will be discontinued, we will be hiring a teacher to teach out the program. We will, in the meantime, be trying to recruit enough students to begin another class. There was some discussion about the loss to the overall curriculum this program will be. Tyler mentioned there are many opportunities for advancement in the field without having to get a degree. Dr. Meyer mentioned that FSW has two similar programs that are also just maintaining enrollment. He talked of the problems trying to hire qualified staff.

The Career Fair, organized by Michele Witlin, was a great success. Representatives from 27 different employers participated. Several students were offered jobs on the spot!

Student Appreciation Day was held on March 24. The games were a great success, and the students seemed to enjoy themselves.

The National Technical Honor Society induction saw an addition of five members. There is one other NTHS chapter in the county. Ours is very active. On April 15 NTHS will conduct a spaghetti lunch fundraiser. Some of the money will be used to assist with expenses for Skills USA competitors.

On the legislative front, nothing in FACTE's legislative agenda was introduced in a bill. All the items were casualties of the political process. The good news was that we were not hurt—the workforce budget was not reduced. Dr. Meyer stated that the State University System and the State College System also took hits in the budget—nothing really reduced but nothing added.

CTE staff received letters from Governor Scott during CTE Week in February thanking us for our contributions to the workforce development plans of Florida.

FMTC School Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting Held April 20, 2016
Page 3

Director's Update (cont'd.)

We had good news and got good publicity out of the most recent earnings survey. FMTC ranked second in the state in the median starting salary for our graduates. Mr. Stevenson asked which of our programs seem to be leading in terms of salaries. Mr. McCormick said that our LPN, AIRC, Coder/Biller, Law Enforcement, Welding, and TGM students are being offered the best salaries. Our four October TGM graduates were offered annual salaries of about \$55,000. Mr. Stevenson mentioned that he saw the article about the survey in the NEWS-PRESS.

The Student of the Year Awards brunch will be held Friday, May 6, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. SAC members are welcome to attend. Please let Debbie Krouse know if you will attend.

FMTC will sponsor an Open House on Thursday, May 12. We have targeted high school juniors and seniors for invitations, sending different post cards to each grade level. Approximately 13,000 cards will be mailed.

The new video for the Cosmetology program was shown. It is narrated by Jacquelyn Bagwell, a current Cosmo student.

Dr. Brian Byrnes, Ass't. Director, Curriculum

Dr. Byrnes reported that 9 students have enrolled in the Xcel-IT Program with FSW. They will begin class soon. We are eager to see what happens with that class.

Lee Memorial Health Systems wants has a goal of hiring approximately 90 CNAs. They reached out to CareerSource SWFL, FMTC, CCTC, and the Southwest Florida Community Foundation to put together a plan to fund the training for prospective employees. The initial response to the program has been good.

Sandy Shimp, Financial Aid

The last few years have been ones of change in the awarding of financial aid. The federal government has lowered the income that will result in an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of zero from \$32,000 to \$24,000. Eligibility for the Pell Grant has also been reduced from nine years to six years. Also, a very high percentage of students (98+) now have to provide additional documentation to verify the information on the FAFSA, which slows the process some. The goal at FMTC is to help students complete our programs debt-free. The FAFSA does not provide space for families to explain special circumstances in their application. Therefore, the federal guidelines now allow a financial aid administrator to use "professional judgment" to compensate for special circumstances on a case-by-case basis with adequate documentation. The financial aid administrator has the authority to make adjustments to the data elements on the FAFSA and to override a student's dependency status based on those circumstances. The administrator does not have the authority to change the need analysis formula or to make adjustments to the EFC. The decision of the financial aid administrator is final and cannot be appealed to either the school's president or the U.S. Department of Education. Our financial aid department is looking at how to implement this strategy at FMTC.

FMTC SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting Held April 20, 2016
Page 4

Sandy Shimp (cont'd.)

We do have additional sources of funding in addition to the federal and state grants. Indian Creek Campground residents are long-time contributors to our program. Grainger has also been a consistent supporter.

The financial aid staff is looking at ways to help students pay for their certification tests. Many students are capable of passing but lack the funds to pay for the test.

The maximum amount for the Pell Grant in 16/17 will be \$5,835. The FAFSA for the 17/18 school year will be available in October, the first time it could be completed before January. For this year, students will be evaluated for aid based on either their 2015 taxes or their 2016 taxes.

George McDaniel, Ass't. Director, Operations and Finance

Mr. McDaniel gave an update on our progress on our strategic plan. We are on track to meet our targets, especially in the area of improving the number of dual-enrolled high school students.

He also reported on the good-of-the-order item raised at the February meeting concerning the prices in the cafeteria. The cafeteria offers a "happy meal" for \$5, which includes a hamburger or cheeseburger, fries, and a drink. At this time there is no plan to adjust the prices in the cafeteria.

Good of the Order

Mr. Pentiuk asked if the COE Accreditation would begin in September. Dr. Byrnes acknowledged that it would. Mr. Pentiuk suggested that we look around the campus for the remaining signs, bulletin boards, etc., referring to our school as "FMIT" and remove them prior to the first visit.

Mr. Patak announced that the Professional Alliance Network asked Dr. Ciolfi to create a website for their organization. They were very pleased with the results.

Ms. Elmore asked whether we were planning to expand into the Labelle area. Mr. McCormick said he met with development staff in Labelle, including Brett Kettler, a former member of the FMTC SAC. We are not planning anything immediately.

SAC members are invited to FMTC's graduation to be held on Thursday, May 26, at 6 p.m. at Fort Myers High School, 2635 Cortez Blvd.

The 16/17 meeting agenda will be developed when the new director has been hired.

Thank you for serving on our School Advisory Council this year. Your comments and suggestions are always appreciated. Have a great summer!

Submitted by,

Suzan Harden, Chairperson