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Cooperating Raleigh Colleges

Chief Academic Officers Meeting Minutes

Wake Tech Community College, Health Sciences Campus

Thursday, November 13, 2014, 9 a.m.

Convener/Committee Chair: Bryan Ryan

<u>In attendance:</u> **Wake Technical Community College**--Mr. Bryan Ryan, Senior Vice President for Curriculum Education; **Shaw University**--Dr. Pamela Denning, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs; **Saint Augustine's University**--Dr. Connie Allen, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; **NC State University**--Dr. Jose Picart, Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Services; **William Peace University**--Dr. Molly Curry, Department Chair, Associate Professor, Nursing and Health Sciences; **Meredith College**--Dr. Matthew Poslusny, Senior Vice President and Provost; **CRC**--Ms. Jenny Spiker, CRC Director.

<u>Welcome and Introductions:</u> Mr. Ryan welcomed the members to one of Wake Tech's campuses, the Health Sciences Campus near Wake Medical Center. The group members introduced themselves and welcomed the newest members, Dr. Molly Curry from William Peace and Dr. Pamela Denning from Shaw University.

<u>Project Report—Adjunct Faculty Professional Development:</u> Mr. Ryan talked about this major new program from last year when two workshops took place. (Details of the programs and the participants are in the packets.) He reminded them that the project grew from discussions several years ago at a subcommittee working the downtown Museum of Science. The idea has been to pool resources to reach adjuncts at all the campuses, many of whom work at several of the CRC institutions. The attendance was good especially for the second one with some 50 participants. The group liked the idea of focusing on adjunct (part-time, non-tenure-track) faculty, but they also suggested we look at expanding to serve regular faculty. Wake Tech offers a certificate to adjuncts who take part in their own and other professional development activities.   A certificate for CRC participation is another aspect to explore.

<u>ACL Webinar:</u> Ms. Spiker told them about a recent webinar for the national association of higher education consortia for which she was one of the three presenters on professional development programs. She talked about the adjunct program and the library workshops and emergency management program. She said participants in that webinar stressed how finances for professional development are being cut back at many colleges across the country. The committee members said that was true here too, so that's another reason to keep exploring CRC options for professional development.

<u>Project Report—RCCC (The Raleigh Promise):</u> Dr. Picart, chair of the RCCC (Raleigh College and Community Collaboration), reported on the progress of the transition team for the project that began with a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Mr. Ryan is the vice chair and Ms. Spiker is one of the transition team members. He reminded them that the purpose has been to build cross-sector partnerships in the community aimed at low-income students to enter higher education, graduate and find living-wage jobs. The core partners have been the colleges and universities, Wake County Public Schools, departments in the City and County and a variety of nonprofits. The Gates funding has expired and now the group is creating a plan for moving forward to work on collective impact to create systemic change in the community. The partnership was built from the ground up in a grassroots approach and partners have gone in and out. The CRC institutions have been a part of the program from the beginning and served it through the Raleigh Fellows part of the program.

The transition team now includes representatives from the United Way of the Greater Triangle and the Education Committee of the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce. The United Way has offered to look at ways to help provide backbone support if that is viable when the new direction is decided. The United Way is also redefining itself and is interested in working with collaborations for a collective impact model. So far in this transition year the revisioning has focused on going from creating programs to finding resources and partnerships in the community to address the gaps that keep the community's students from educational success. Some examples of that have been some grants that have grown from a partnership with the public schools and NC State. And recently a family foundation has offered to partner to provide scholarships to students attending any of the six colleges and universities to help with the family contribution piece of college funding. The colleges will be asked for ways they and CRC can stay involved. Ms. Spiker asked the members how much they thought their institutions were interested in local students, and several said that interest has increased in recent years from the institutions that draw primarily from non-local students. Each of the colleges has found a place to "house" the primary interest in this mission. For example, at NC State it's with the TRIO program and at Shaw with the commuter students. The role of CRC in the future will also be a part of the planning.

Registrars and Librarians: Ms. Spiker pointed out that notes and minutes from these two groups were in their packets. Both met this fall to share common interests. She said the both groups spend a lot of time helping each other with new developments like the recent changes with the NC LIVE online resources program they all use. She said the transition of Wake Tech joining and now using both library and cross-registration processes has gone smoothly.

Emergency Management: Ms. Spiker reported on the major spinoff project of the Student Affairs and Finance Committees. The group had four sessions last year with the last two bringing together a cross-section of people from different areas of each campus and community partners. The July 30th event was a table-top exercise led by NC State's Katina Blue with everyone responding to a tornado scenario that affected all campuses. Most people thought it was intense and stressful like a real event would be, but it was great for helping people think about all kinds of demands in a crisis situation. She stressed how this collaboration has been excellent for connecting the campuses to the people in the community, especially Wake County emergency management, and that they really appreciate developing the campus connections.

Transportation explorations: Mr. Ryan and Ms. Spiker reported on some recent developments with the City of Raleigh and Wake County on projects aimed at improving bus and other transit systems in the area.

- **Meeting with the City:** Dr. Jo Allen, Meredith president and this year's CRC president, Ms. Spiker and several other CRC members were in a recent meeting with David Eatman, the City's transit administrator, discussing the importance of the transit needs of the colleges' and universities' students, faculty and staff. Mr. Ryan heard their report at the CRC Board meeting the day before this meeting and he said the CRC group used this meeting to stress the overall economic impact of the CRC group, providing them with the summary results of the recent economic impact study and how the success of the various collaborative programs, such as cross-registration, rely on transit options.

- **County's plan for a Transit Advisory Board:** The County has invited CRC to provide six members of a 70-member community transit advisory board. NC State is one of the funding sponsors so they already have representatives on the board. The group decided to find the three adult representatives from the committee chairs represented on the Board. Mr. Ryan asked for their ideas about finding students for the advisory board. Dr. Denning said she knew of a student who might be interested. Tim Gardiner, Wake County Transit Investment Strategy Project Manager, also wanted the CRC Board's input about how to conduct stakeholder interviews with college and university people. The Board decided that it should be done on individual campuses instead of with a combined group.

- o **Help with getting the word out about cross-registration:** Ms. Spiker asked for the committee members' help and advice about an ongoing program to inform students and particularly academic advisers about the existence of CRC cross-registration. She said she recently included that as a key item in her e-newsletter (copy in the packet), but is always looking for ways to get more people informed. The group said they would look for opportunities to include the topic at faculty meetings.

Programs at Wake Tech and with the community college system:

- o MOOC courses: Mr. Ryan talked about several new programs at Wake Tech, including their experience with MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses). The courses so far have been in algebra, computer literacy and chemistry. They are now adding one on language arts. He said the one that's been particularly popular is algebra, which had 20,000 people sign up and about 4,000 finish it. The emphasis is not on completion nor do they give credit, but they are primarily designed to help students prepare for college courses. They often attract students who have been out of school for awhile and need refreshers. He said their success rate with the algebra course is higher than that of Harvard and MIT. Dr. Poslusny asked if they are self-paced and moderated, and Mr. Ryan said they are self-paced and students can dip in and out of them. They've now had four sets of faculty involved with the courses and he would be happy to refer them to the other colleges to find out what they've thought about the process.

- o Reverse transfer program: He said the community colleges now have a reverse transfer pilot program with the university system and that concept could also be implemented with the independent colleges. This allows students to apply credits from four-year schools to their community college credential. Wake Tech has identified 450 students as possibilities for the reverse transfer program and so far 58 associate degrees have been awarded for them.

- o Articulation agreement between community and four-year colleges: He also explained the new comprehensive articulation agreement with the North Carolina community college system and the UNC system. He said the independent colleges will soon be contacted about a similar agreement. In fact, they started working on it the morning of this meeting. Among the changes in the new agreement are reducing the AS and AA requirements from 64 to 60 hours. The agreement outlines the ACA (Academic Success Courses) that community college students must take to be able to transfer to a four-year school. He encouraged the independent colleges to contact the community college system office to be sure they get feedback about what the independents need.

Special Design Major: Dr. Allen led the update and discussion about the proposal from last year about special design major plans. (See attached summary.)   Last year after putting forth the proposal about involving CRC schools in this special kind of major, the committee members went back to their campuses to assess the interest level and also checked with their SACS accrediting agency representatives. The plan is for students to be able to create an inter-disciplinary major either all at their own institution or also to include courses from another CRC institution often going beyond the currently allowable number of courses allowed through cross-registration. The following findings, observations and questions were discussed:

- o SACS—Dr. Allen said Saint Augustine's SACS representative said CRC may have to change its agreement document to allow it. Ms. Spiker said she would email the agreement to the committee members to see if they thought that would be a good idea. The group stressed that SACS and the faculty councils would need to approve the plan.
- o Dr. Picart said his associate deans at NC State are supportive of the concept.
- o Dr. Curry said she thinks the proposal would need to be approved through the William Peace Faculty Senate.
- o Typically such agreements involve just two institutions at a time.
- o Examples would be music and speech pathology majors between Saint Augustine's and Shaw.

- o Dr. Poslusny said his faculty was not very interested because they don't want to have to expand the number of courses.
- o Dr. Allen stressed that it does require faculty involvement before any program would be approved.
- o Mr. Ryan said that he thought another community college in the state faced some SACS criticism for a similar program.
- o The group stressed that any CRC policy about such a program needs to stress allowing for possibilities and not emphasize penalties.
- o Ms. Spiker reminded the group that not all six CRC members need to be involved in every CRC program. And Dr. Picart added that each campus could create its own requirements as they do now for how they approve and the number and type of courses for cross-registration.

Other projects to move forward:
- o The committee encouraged more development of the adjunct professional development program and consideration of other kinds of professional development.
- o Another project to explore would involve leadership development for faculty members who take on leadership roles beyond teaching.
- o Another group to convene again is the study abroad program leaders.
- o The committee needs to do more about how CRC should continue to be a part of the Raleigh Promise; perhaps CRC can assist with the convening of those key community education partnerships and the colleges and universities' involvement with them.
- o Ms. Spiker told the group about how the Student Affairs Committee is creating a list of personnel from each campus who would be willing to share their expertise and experience on another campus in both formal and informal ways. They could pilot on an in-kind basis programs other campuses could learn from. This committee said they would like to do the same thing.

The group agreed to schedule another meeting for the spring semester, preferably in March.

--Submitted by Jenny Spiker, CRC Director