

## **Special COT Meeting**

**June 1, 2015**

**2:00 p.m.**

**Present: Joan, Tracy, Sue, Mike, Dean. Joy arrived at 4:00.**

**Others: Terry, Landa.**

**Recorded by: Patty S.**

### **HLC letter:**

Terry discussed the HLC response letter, which included an additional finding regarding low student enrollment/retention. He plans to present an argument based on issues such as historical trauma, poverty, cultural values and beliefs regarding higher education, first generation college students, and population. He feels it is unfair to hold tribal colleges to the same standards as other colleges, and wishes to educate the HLC of our unique challenges. His goal is to define our success based on realities, but assure the HLC that we will continue to strive to overcome these challenges.

Acknowledging that many of our students take longer than 2 years to complete their degree, due to child care needs, transportation, substance abuse, trauma, etc., we feel recent past instability in governance has also had a negative impact. Terry's goals include identifying the obstacles, sustaining consistent governance, and building an expansive retention model which is more family based.

Terry asked how the Board would like to participate in the response. We are currently in good standing with the HLC, off probation. No Board action is required at this time, simply guidance to project the proper tone. Joy did not receive proper notification of the special Meeting, therefore, the Board was uncomfortable proceeding without her.

### **Strategic Planning:**

Tracy brought a strategic planning document formatted to define actions, steps to take, how to meet goals, timeframes, target audience, and responsible parties. She will forward it to Patty. Patty will make the document our own, Board will address at next meeting.

In her time of service on the Board, she hasn't heard the Board discuss strategic priorities. She hopes to establish a 5 year priority timeline after today. This coincides nicely with our scheduled HLC visit in 5 years. Terry explained that the college has completed the initial strategic planning process, and stressed the Strategic Plan must be the Board's priority at this point.

Terry and Patty explained handouts from the April 9-10 Strategic Planning Retreat. Terry requested the Board create priorities and directives for us based on the April 10 spreadsheet. Joan pointed out that we need to include strengthening our governing body in the strategic plan initiatives. The goal is to keep the plan realistic, with attainable goals. The 5 year plan will be evaluated yearly.

### **President's Performance Evaluation:**

Tracy will email the staff performance evaluation form to the Board for feedback/revision for president.

Next meeting: Special Meeting Thursday, June 4 at 3:00 p.m. The Strategic Plan will be addressed.

Joy arrived at 4:00 p.m.

**Revised Mission Statement Proposal:**

After discussion, the Board revised the mission statement to read:

“White Earth Tribal and Community College is an institution of higher learning dedicated to academic excellence grounded in Anishinaabe culture, values, and traditions.”

The meeting was officially called to order at 4:20 p.m.

Motion made by Sue to approve the revised mission statement, above; Second by Joy. All in favor, motion carried.

Adjourned at 4:30 p.m.



Secretary signature



date