Superior Student Forum Notes
September 24, 2008
Attendance – 37 (31 students)
Admin: Bob Meyer, Debbi King, John Will, and Kim Olson
Some Faculty & Staff

➢ Debbie King introduced Bob Meyer.

➢ Handouts: Student Survey, Core Trends, Establishing Goals, Strategic Goals/AQIP, and 7th Ranking brochure.

➢ Input was given by students in response to the following questions:
   1. In your view, how can WITC best serve you as a student?
   2. Why did you choose WITC?
   3. In the future, what would you like to see WITC do differently?

➢ Bob Meyer noted that 75,000 baby boomers that are nearing retirement age, which means there will be many jobs available.

   a. Student Senate Activities Attract Students
      One of the reasons one student chose this WITC location is because the Students Senate is so involved and she saw it as a really good trend. In high school she enjoyed getting involved with Home Coming Week and saw WITC’s Snow-Week as a comparable activity.

      Bob Meyer encouraged students to get involved with Student Senate as it is a great experience.

   b. Caring Instructors and Staff Impact Students
      Another student chose to come to WITC because of the staff and instructors. They are concerned about the students and this had a big impact on her as a student.

   c. Collaboration with UW-Superior
      Students choose WITC Superior because of the collaboration with WITC and UW-Superior (dorms were mentioned).

   d. Keep Technology Current
      Technology is always changing. Since WITC is a technical school and teaches technology, one student feels that keeping processes up-to-date is very important.

      Bob Meyer talked about having strong advisory committees as one way to do that because the world of work is always changing and employers (who are on our advisory committees) know what skills sets are needed.

   e. UW-Superior Bookstore Issues
      One student said that her biggest problem is the trouble she has with WITC’s bookstore being located at UW-Superior. She also has had to order books over the phone for a course she was taking from another WITC location and was concerned if she was getting the correct book. She asked if the bookstore could be transferred to WITC.

      It was also noted that UW-Superior staff treat WITC students like they are “foreigners.” Students don’t know where they are supposed to park, etc.

      Bob Meyer asked the students if they had a concern with books and the majority of them raised their hands. Bob Meyer informed the students that the college is attempting to address the issue (before July 1, 2009).
f. **UW-Superior Bookstore – Wrong Book Version**
   There are two different versions of the Accounting book for WITC students – one book is bound and the other is a loose leaf book. One student noted that the UW-Superior bookstore staff don’t seem to care about what the WITC students need for books, and she had to go back and return the book.

   She also noted UW-Superior staff kind of look down to the WITC students.

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**Perception of WITC Needs to Change in the High Schools**

One student stated that coming to a technical school for a two-year degree is a great start and a great fit for students – it gets them into the workforce and costs less. He asked if there is a negative mark on two-year associate degree students.

Bob Meyer noted that from the employers’ perspective, they would like to see the perception changed because they want to hire the two-year degree students who they consider to be highly valued. There may be a lack of understanding of the two-year degree and the value of it. Bob Meyer asked the students how many of them have gotten the right message about WITC in their high schools. One student said that the teachers in his high school told students that if they “aren’t smart enough” they can go to the two-year school.

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**ITV/IPV Courses**

One student noted that three of his classes are on ITV or IP and he sees positives to this instructional format if there are a few students at each location who want to take the class; however, at his location there are 12 – 14 students with only a few at the other WITC locations. He wanted to understand why the course is set up this way when they have enough students at his location to offer the course as a face-to-face course. He also noted that ITV/IPV courses are not as personal because it is hard to reach instructors and turn in work.

Bob Meyer responded that it might have been a way to offer the class by having enough students to make it cost effective. The Dean of Students noted that the ITV/IPV format allows us to offer courses when there aren’t enough students at a specific location. She recommended that students should do whatever they can to make a relationship with their instructor by e-mailing them and inviting them to teach the course from their campus location.

Bob Meyer also noted that we may see a shift from ITV to online where appropriate.

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**Gas Siphoning – Campus Security**

Since classes have started, one student said that gas has been siphoned from her car on two separate occasions. She wondered if we have any campus security. The Dean of Students noted that UW-Superior has security for WITC. The student noted that she contacted UW-Superior; however, the Dean of Students should be informed so issues can be addressed with the police.

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**Criminal Justice – Law Enforcement**

A Criminal Justice - Corrections program student asked if WITC Superior would be getting Criminal Justice - Law Enforcement and/or Criminal Justice - Law Enforcement Academy (the Rice Lake Campus has both). Bob Meyer noted that this is being explored.

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**Criminal Justice – Corrections - Hands-on Training**

A Criminal Justice student said she looked into a lot of other schools and honestly loves the WITC Superior program. A friend of hers just graduated from a four-year Criminal Justice program that focused mostly on the Psychology side of things. At WITC Superior, the program has a direct and hands-on approach to students learning.

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**Senior Meal Van is Creating a Lawn Issue**

The Senior Meal Van is ripping up the lawn by the door where food is delivered. One student stated that she wants to be proud of her school and not have a big mud puddle there.
m. **Chartwells (Food Service)**
   It was noted that Chartwells is expensive; for example, a soda is $1.50. The food needs to be reasonable for students. One student asked if the economy is the reason why the prices keep going up and said that as college students we are broke. The Dean of Students informed the students that this is a contracted service.

n. **Chartwells – Doesn’t Permit Student Potlucks on Site**
   A student noted that last year her class was trying to have a potluck for the purpose of having students experience different cultures; however, Chartwells did not allow them to do this and they had to have their potluck offsite. The Dean of Students will try to work a “cultural potluck” into one of Chartwells’ contract days.

o. **Health and Wellness for Students**
   A student asked if WITC had any kind of contract or ability to negotiate with UW-Superior to give WITC students access to their Health and Wellness Center. It would help promote good health for the students and might entice students to come to WITC. The Dean of Students said they looked into this at one time and thought it would cost around $9,000 a semester. After a random survey was done, asking students if they would use the UW-Superior facility, it was determined that this wasn’t a feasible thing to do. It was noted that the YMCA is two blocks down the street and can be used at a reduced rate.

p. **Ideas for New Programs or Expansions**
   A Business Management student asked if new programs or expansions were being planned. Bob Meyer mentioned that Renewable Energy, Sustainability, and Green Technology may be integrated into programs. Welding and healthcare were mentioned as areas of growth. A common theme from students so far is that they want a foreign language course. A Superior student would like a sign language course.

q. **Sign Language**
   One student would love to learn sign language and wondered if it could be inserted into her program as an elective course. The Dean of Students noted that North Central Technical College and St. Paul Technical College have a two-year program in sign language where you get an array of sign language systems, translation skills, and technical interpretation training.

r. **Promote the Student Success Center**
   One student would like to see the Student Success Center promoted. The marketing of the brochure doesn’t provide information about where the center is located, what it does, or how it helps the community. He wondered if the marketing class could make improvements to the brochure.

s. **Study Abroad Programs**
   A student asked if WITC offered any study abroad programs. Bob Meyer said there may be some ways to partner with the universities regarding Study Abroad.