

MEMO

Bemidji State University

To: Members of the BSUFA Meet and Confer Group
From: Dick Hanson
Date: 4/3/2013
Re: Northwest Technical College and Bemidji State University Alignment

This document contains a proposal that I would like faculty and administrators at BSU and NTC to consider for the remainder of this academic year and all of next academic year.

Assumptions and Facts:

1. Several years ago a decision was made to align BSU and NTC, although the precise definition of alignment was never developed.
2. Since that decision and over time, all of the “backroom administrative functions” for the two institutions are shared (President, Financial Aid, Student Life and Enrollment, Institutional Research, IT, Budget and Finance, Human Resources) except for Academic Affairs.
3. The budgets for the two institutions come from MnSCU as one budget, i.e., the Allocation Model sees NTC and BSU as one institution.
4. The financial stability of BSU as measured by the Composite Financial Index is significantly affected by the financial condition of NTC. While there is one budget, the financial health and audit procedures are separate for each institution.
5. At the present time, the financial health of NTC is soft and the institution is underperforming.

Proposed Action

1. Initiate a conversation --- a series of open forums on both campuses around the issue of making NTC a fourth college of the university.
2. Create a study group – faculty, staff and students from both campuses – whose charge will be to analyze all angles of the proposition (making NTC the 4th college).
3. The study group would begin this spring and a report about midyear of the next academic year. Open forums would have initial meetings this semester and will continue through Fall 2013.
4. After conversation and study, the study group will make a non-binding recommendation to the president on or about Feb. 1, 2014.