

NPC Business Department Community Advisory Meeting

Thursday, February 16, 2023

NPC, SCC, LC101

11am-1pm

Lunch Served

Notes taken by Jeanette Hancock

Welcome

Rachel Arroyo-Townsend (Business Department Chair) conducted the meeting and started the meeting with introductions. She introduced the Business Department faculty with herself, Jennifer Bishop, Kurry Klingel, and Charlene Klingel. She asked for introductions around the room. Introduced Dean Jeremy Raisor.

Attendance: Rachel Arroyo-Townsend, Jeremy Raisor (Dean of CTE), Kurry Klingel, Charlene Klingel, Becky Christensen (Springerville/Eagar Regional Chamber of Commerce), Jason Brubaker (Local business owner, Snowflake-Taylor Chamber member, and Town of Taylor Vice-mayor), Rob Hefner (Service Specialist Pinetop-Lakeside), Sandra Angelo (Senior Professor at Devry), Liz Flake (NAU transfer), Jeanette Hancock, Ben Sandoval (NPC career services), Doug Umlah (remote), Hyrum Cottrell (remote), and "Call in user 2" (remote).

How new Degree will benefit community

Last year at this meeting we announced we were working on developing a Bachelor degree. This year I will give you the details of the degree and how it will benefit our community.

The proposed Bachelor of Applied Management degree will cap at 150% of the lower level tuition. The degree will be the equivalent of a university degree. The college must go through the same accreditation process as the universities. Students with AAS degrees that try to transfer, usually cannot transfer very many of their credits. The degree that we will offer for a Bachelor degree will take all their credits and use it as a stackable degree. The student would need to take some business core classes. The student would be required to take 30 credits of lower division courses in addition to their AAS degree before taking 30 credits of the higher division courses to get the Bachelor of Applied Management degree (BAM). They call it a 90/30 so it would consist of 90 degrees of lower division (including their Associate degree) and then 30 credits of

upper division courses. They will start with two emphases (Entrepreneurship and Leadership; and Medical Administration). Can expand to different emphases and looking at expanding into Human Resources and Public Administration eventually. This degree is a Business of Applied Management. It is “applied management” because it is not just theoretical. We will teach the theoretical but will also work on different ways to apply that knowledge to real world situations.

Will be using simulation software to apply learning to real world situations.

This creates a pathway for students with an AAS degree to get a Bachelor’s degree and then they can move on to a Master’s degree.

Rachel wanted to make sure everyone understood that this degree and plan is contingent upon approval. This will be presented to Instructional Council, the District Governing Board, and then the Higher Learning Commission and must get approval from each first.

This degree will have great advantages. It will be offered at a low-cost tuition rate, only 150% of our lower level tuition. (Rachel pointed out that currently our lower level is about \$80/credit, so as of right now it would be offered at \$120/credit). That is an average saving of a \$1000 per class over University tuition. She estimates that doing this degree for the 4 years at NPC would cost about \$11,500 total. It also will be an advantage because people can stay local. It is a pathway for any Associate degree and then after a pathway to a Master’s degree.

How will this BAM help your business?

It will teach students how to improve customer relationships and better communication skills. It will help students know how to keep current on marketing trends (to stay competitive). It will teach supply chain management. It will help people learn how to work with a diversity of people. It will offer a wider application pool for local jobs as the current population will be better educated. It will fill a need in our district.

Timeline

- IC (Instructional Council) approval fall 2023
- DBG (District Governing Board) approval Oct./Nov. 2023
- HLC (Higher Learning Commission) application Oct./Nov. 2023
- Launch Bachelor’s Degree fall 2024 (Pending approval)

Students interested can start working towards this degree now. Rachel asked those in attendance that if they like this degree and would like to show support, she would appreciate them submitting a letter of support. Letters of support from community are required with the approval process. They can contact Rachel or Jeremy with any questions or help needed.

Feedback, Concerns, Questions

Q: Will classes be offered online?

A: Yes, classes will be offered online. We are also currently doing a pilot program called NPCFlex. This allows a student to take the course online, come in to a campus, or watch the recording after the class.

Concern: What about students that need remedial training?

A: Students that need remedial training can take CCP (College and Career Prep) courses to get ready for more advanced courses. One example of a course offered that can help with remedial training is BUS124 (Basic keyboarding and Processing) to learn basics in keyboarding, Word, and how to use a desktop.

Comment: Likes that the BAM has an emphasis (2 currently) and that it can be expanded. He said that he could tell a lot of planning and researching went into this and feels it will help the community and family businesses.

Q: Will this be advertised around the state?

A: That is the plan.

Comment: Worried about the title of the degree. Students may be hesitant about the “applied” degree.

A: The name was discussed. Looked at doing a B.S. vs. an “Applied” degree. Applied degree focuses more on how to apply the knowledge. BYU also offers a BAM degree and the curriculum is very similar. Others offer it as a Bachelor of Science of Applied Management which is similar to ours but we removed “Science.”

Q: Are employers willing to pay more for an employee with a Bachelor’s degree?

A: That was not asked specifically on the survey but they had about 80% of those that responded say that they would or would consider helping to finance an employee getting a degree.

Comment: Getting a license, certification, etc. to become more knowledgeable and to better oneself is an opportunity for an employer to give raises and challenges the employees to do better to justify a raise.

A: There is several certification options. We teach classes as a prep for the certification but not as a requirement.

This degree will work for both small and big businesses. It is not structured to a certain business.

Comment: Worked for a University that emphasized hands-on and had to have experience to get hired. Pleased to see that this model was followed for this degree. Our communities need this and believes this will have a positive impact on the community.

A: Simulation software will help with critical thinking. Students will also have to do reports, papers, projects, etc.

Future Degrees (Dean Raisor)

Some other programs we are working on developing at an Associate level include:

- AJS/CJS (Administrative Justice). This is a pathway from the police academy and also will expand for those that want to work in law enforcement (non-officer) jobs such as security, corrections, etc. Will be rolling out the first phase for law enforcement officers this coming fall.
- AGR (Agriculture). Biggest challenge is trying to figure out what is needed and wanted. Starting on a feasibility study this year to decide what is needed. For example, looking into homesteading. Would probably need a phased approach and would start with one thing at a time. This may also require some infrastructure to be built.
Comment: It could be tough to compete with the valley because of our shortened seasons, etc.
- PHP (Physical Health and Performance). Sports medicine is part of the high school. Another aspect of this degree is personal training that someone could use in gyms and other areas and working as assistants, etc. Planning to roll out this program this fall.
- BHE (Behavioral Health Education) – dealing with mental health issues, substance abuse, etc. We have a high rate of suicide in our area. This degree is funded by legislative funding. It is being developed to help in several different aspects.

Q: Wanted to know about food handling and prep.

A: A lot of places meet that need somewhere else.

Comment: Suggested that this is a need and could have some certification.

A: One of the degrees could transition into this.

Comment: Water and sewer certifications are in demand and water is a big issue in Arizona. We are governed by law how we deal with water and sewer. As a town we have to pay into a group to have certification. This is an in-demand job that pays well to help keep a town up with the ADEQ rules and keep everything legal and proper.

A: We offered certifications in water and waste management but that is currently in limbo right now because it is tied to our Powerplant program. We are trying to expand to alternative energy. Looking into HVAC and other things, as well.

Q: Have you thought about a potential group, for example, 40-year-olds that have settled here and do not want to move but would like to make a better wage. Looking specifically at the power plants closing. What can we do to reskill and upskill these employees to make them more marketable?

A: The offering of this Bachelor's degree and other degrees could help fill this need but we are thinking about this. Jeremy said he was going to the legislature on Tuesday to talk about our local needs and the Powerplants closing and how help is needed.

Closing

Rachel thanked everyone for their feedback. She will look into the suggestions. Still working on figuring out local needs.

Rachel let everyone know that her card was on the table on their way out. Please feel free to email her or Dean Raisor about any questions or feedback. If they were willing to write a letter of support for the Bachelor degree that would be much appreciated.

The minutes will be sent out. Rachel thanked everyone for joining and reminded them that this meeting is held in-person each spring.