Main Street Minutes
August 17, 2010
Mary Emery

Present
Steve McKelvey, Chair; Bruce Benson; Paula Carlson; Bruce Dalgaard; Roz Eaton-Neeb; Mary Emery, Ted Johnson; Michael Kyle; Janice Roberts; Samantha Sickbert

Agenda for Meeting
1. Approval of Minutes of July 29, 2010 meeting
2. Chair’s report on meeting with President Anderson
3. Kirsten Cahoon presentation on state of the art in vocational and career development
4. Finalization of objectives statement and discussion of next steps
5. Schedule time for next meeting

Approval of Minutes
The minutes of the July 29, 2010 meeting were approved with elimination of the “thanks” section.

Chair’s Report on Meeting with President Anderson
Steve McKelvey and Paula Carlson met with President Anderson on August 9, 2010.
   a) President Anderson is generally pleased with the committee’s progress and general plan for fall semester activities.
   b) President Anderson is not convinced that we need to bring Nathan Hatch to the College to gain support of skeptics of the Main Street Project concept because he feels that the case for the project is so convincing.
   c) President Anderson has obtained approval from the Mellon Foundation to repurpose a $50,000 New President’s grant to provide support for the Main Street Project Committee’s work.
   d) The Committee has been asked to consider the possibility of sending members to Minneapolis, Seattle, New York and other cities as a part of the “St Olaf On the Road” program to seek alumni support for the Main Street Project.
   e) President Anderson will discuss the Main Street Project at the opening faculty meeting and banquet.

Kirsten Cahoon Presentation on State of the Art in Vocational and Career Development
Kirsten Cahoon, Senior Associate Director, Career Connections, discussed current trends in vocational and career development. She also provided the Committee with an extensive packet of information. Her oral report focused on the college’s role in facilitating the student transition to adulthood and on innovative models of career development.

Transition to Adulthood: College students are now viewed as “emerging adults”. They are in the process exploration and self-discovery. They are hopeful and fearful. This
In view of students informs the current approach to career counseling that emphasizes early engagement with students as they make the transition into adulthood.

Innovative Models of Career Development: The new model of career development recognizes that the career center is no longer just a placement service. St Olaf and its aspirational peers at the LACN Conference have adopted a “developmental paradigm” to serve students. This model includes activities in each of the following areas.

- **Experiential learning** is an important part of the new career development model. The St Olaf CEL currently offers support to students as they seek internships, civic engagement, social innovation and entrepreneurship opportunities. Expansion of these opportunities will require resources and collaboration with the academic program.

- **Alumni and parent support** is an essential component of the new career development model. Alumni and parents can provide externships, networking opportunities, informational interviews, internships, career advise, etc. to students. St Olaf has already harnessed its larger constituency to assist students in many ways but we will need to find ways to further engage alumni and parents.

- **Four Year Plan:** Early engagement through advising and cohort programs is a key to the new career development model. Ideally, each St Olaf student will thoughtfully consider his/her future throughout the undergraduate years. The CEL has developed a formal multi-year planning approach for several academic programs – “My Plan”. A description of the My Plan process can be found at [http://www.stolaf.edu/services/cel/students/My_Plan.html](http://www.stolaf.edu/services/cel/students/My_Plan.html). Expansion of this approach at St Olaf will require broad campus “buy-in” and commitment.

Finalization of Objectives Statement and Discussion of Next Steps

Due to lack of time, this agenda item was deferred to the next meeting.

Next Meeting

The Committee will meet at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, August 24th in Regents Hall of Science, Room 136.