

**MINT Meeting Minutes**  
**May 21, 2002**  
**MSU-Northern Great Falls Campus**

PRESENT WERE: Carol Moore, MSU-Bozeman-Billings; Barbara Derwinski-Robinson, MSU-Bozeman-Billings; Betty Mulleter, MSU-Bozeman-Billings; Bill Tapp, MSU-GFCOT; Will Donahue, Central Montana Medical Center, Lewistown; Lynne Peterson, Montana Tech, Butte; Kelly Amtmann, Montana Tech, Butte; Karen VanDaveer, Montana Tech, Butte; Ellen Wirtz, Helena College of Technology; Margaret Wafstet, UM/COT, Missoula; Gretchen McNeely, MSU-Bozeman; Tonia Marine, MSU-Bozeman-Great Falls Campus; Susan Raph, MSU-Bozeman-Great Falls Campus; Lea Acord, MSU-Bozeman; Connie Schultz, FMDH, Glasgow; Karen Pollington, Northern Montana Hospital; Trish Goudie, MSU-Northern; Audrey Conner Rosberg, MSU-COT Billings; Julie Hickethier, Benefis Healthcare-Great Falls; Moe Brophy, Montana Tech; Judy Klaboe Russell, Montana Tech; VIA TELECONFERENCE: Kathy Wankel, Miles Community College; Jackie Dolbery, Salish-Kootenai College; Cheryl Ault MSU-GF COT; Cynthia Gustafson Carroll College

The meeting was called to order and welcome presented by MINT Executive Director Margaret Wafstet.

The April minutes were discussed. Audrey Conner-Rosberg submitted two versions of the minutes—a longer, more detailed version, and a shorter version. Some discussion took place on which version to use. It was suggested by Trish Goudie that we retain the long version of the minutes as it demonstrates the thought process that took place. It was also suggested that the short version of the minutes be used on the web. It was noted that there are 64 spaces available in Billings and not 54 as stated in the minutes. On page 4, second bullet, the projected space numbers are for Kalispell for the Spring of 2003 and Bozeman of 2004. “Players” refers to administrators. To make a clarification, 21% of nurses nationally leave the nursing profession altogether. With no further discussion, the minutes were approved.

The Committees then went into their respective meetings. The Articulation Committee met in Room R263 and the Data Committee met in Room R234, until lunch.

Lunch was provided and hosted by MSU-Northern.

After lunch, it was reported that there were four MINT members at the recent Governor’s Summit on Health Care in Bozeman. Margaret asked for any thoughts and a summary of the Summit. Lea Acord stated that this Summit was the result of a recommendation from the Governor’s Blue Ribbon Task Force on the Healthcare Workforce Shortage. The attendance was originally invitation only but opened up due to demand. There were several break out sessions during the Summit. Trish Goudie stated she attended two of the break out sessions and a lot of ideas were presented. Trish is concerned about the proposal for reduction of regulations for licensure and credentials suggested by some in the healthcare workforce shortage breakout session. Lea shares Trish’s concern. Trish stated that the “number one” issue from that group

was licensure requirements, and its impact on acquiring qualified workers. She questions the reasoning behind the recommendation to loosen licensure requirements, since it exists for public safety. Both Lea and Trish urge others to monitor this issue as it progresses. Margaret announced that the next Task Force on Healthcare Workforce Shortage meeting will take place on May 30 in the Colonial Building in Helena. Lea stated that the first draft of recommendations will be discussed at this meeting. She urged as many as possible to attend and provide input. Lea will be there and Trish may go. June 21 will be the date to review the second draft of recommendations and will then be open to public comment.

Gretchen McNeely needs letters of support from nursing schools for a grant. She needs the letters by the end of the summer.

Answers to the MINT Homework Questions were discussed. With this reference, the Answers will be attached and made a part of these minutes. Lea made a motion to put the Homework responses on the July agenda for discussion. Trish seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Karen announced that the LPN educators will meet June 20.

The Committees presented their reports:

Data Committee: Presented by Lea Acord. They made a list of their sources of information gathered from surveys. A report will then be made and contain the following: Introduction, Executive Summary, Problem Statement, List of Issues, Meta Analysis of Data, Discussion and Conclusion. Recommendations will be accepted at the June 19 meeting in Butte. Lea asked to bring lap top computers. Karen will arrange for a meeting room. Lea invited all to attend but let her know so all have the information they need.

Patti Iverson has conducted a survey of eastern Montana medical centers. Lea moved that MINT fund \$400 towards the entering of data from this project. Karen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Articulation Committee: The Articulation Model was discussed and questions were raised regarding if this would be voluntary. It was stated that it would be impossible to make this mandatory unless the Board of Regents and the Governor made it so. Grandfathering of previous grads vs. new grads were discussed. Escrowing of General Education credits was discussed but no conclusion was made. It is important to look at the full program; consumers do not understand the programs and view requirements as “hoops to jump through” rather than an opportunity for learning. Trish explained Northern’s program and how Northern works with escrow credits. The Committee deemed the Articulation Model to be acceptable and this will need to be sent to Joyce Scott. How to implement the Model will be discussed at the August meeting.

Initial data selections will be discussed by the Articulation Committee in June. Karen will provide the data.

“Life After MINT” was discussed. It was decided to start releasing information in November about the work of MINT has been done. MINT will use newsprint as well as other media sources and make a simple one page Articulation for distribution. The Pulse has been used in the past, but more publications will need to be utilized. High schools, Montana colleges including private and tribal, registrar’s offices and hospitals are also places where information can be released. It was mentioned that there used to be a Communications Committee and this should be resurrected for this purpose. Use of websites such as MINT, Board of Regents and Montana Nurse’s Association was also discussed, and that the MINT website be maintained with links to schools. A pamphlet for middle and high school students and their parents was suggested. Another suggestion was that those who have served on MINT meet once a year, to be hosted by different colleges each year. This will be discussed at the July meeting. Senator Conrad Burns may be able to get some funding if MINT has a plan. This will also be made an agenda item. It was suggested that we involve interested persons from Wyoming, and to invite them to the September MINT meeting as it is in Billings.

Margaret asked those in attendance to think about publicity, so there will be some ideas to consider at the September meeting. Send your ideas to Audrey, and she and Kathy Wankel will work on them. Margaret will send Kathy the meeting handouts for her reference.

It was suggested that the name “Center for Health Care Workers” be considered “after MINT” and perhaps members be compiled of those who have served on committees such as MINT and the Governor’s Task Force. This Center could become a repository for information.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by,

Emily Mayer Lossing  
Administrative Support  
MSU-Northern College of Nursing