

**Board of Trustees
February 26, 2021 Meeting**

**Student Trustees Report
Submitted by Lucy Herman and Kaya Luck**

Dear Fellow Trustees,

What a chilly few weeks we've had! The students here on campus have differently had to put their winter gear to the test. Fighting off -20 degree mornings is not for the faint of heart! To get through this cold snap, students and faculty have been tending to warm fires in the Ponzio fireplace and warm drinks and treats were offered as a midterm pick-me-up.

Before the weather plunged, students were able to enjoy the new campus ice rink and free rental ice-skates. This addition has been very popular, and students are very grateful to have a new form of covid-safe fun. Students were also offered the opportunity to receive free season passes to MT Ashwabay Ski and recreation Area which has been popular for beginner and advanced skiers and snowboarders alike. NCSA even hosted a college ski night on February 17th.

Recent activities occurring around campus or online have included an online interview/Q&A with professors Sarah Johnson, Michaela Carlson, and Alissa Hulstrand for International Day of Women and Girls in Science. This event gave students a better understanding of the challenges and triumphs women face in a male dominated career. Ruth De Jesus held multiple events in the new (and beautiful) Diversity Center to celebrate Black History Month. These events range from open discussions about racism to discussing the series "Eyes on the Prize," a documentary that focuses on the path of the Civil Rights Movement.

Another success on campus has been the addition of a second mental health counselor. The counseling services at Northland have always been a heavily discussed topic with a typical consensus of wanting more options/variability. By bringing a new counselor to campus, even if she is an intern, students have been allowed more availability for appointments and more options on who can best suite their individual needs. We hope to see Northland continue to expand their mental health services and abilities in time.

We are excited to announce that the 15 week-based classes will be returning though next year! Accelerated courses have proven a safe approach to socially distancing due to smaller class sizes and decreased number of interactions, but students and faculty struggled to keep up with the fast pace and ultimately decided to return to the old semester schedule. This choice was voted on by the Academic Council near the end of January and classes have been moved up to begin near the end of August rather than the typical early September.

While it is important that we do discuss some of Northland's accomplishments, we do need to bring up the challenges that students, faculty, and staff have been facing as the new semester has

begun. At the end of January, a water pipe had burst in Fenenga's boiler room which led to the hall not having heat nor water. All Fenenga residents were evacuated and forced to find a place to stay for the night. Some rooms were available on campus, but this number was limited. This led to a one-night campus-wide disarray as people stayed with friends, in hotels, residence hall lobbies, etc.

Another issue that has risen has been the general struggles with the sun setting sooner. While it is important to get your daily dose of vitamin D, typically when students are most available is after the sun has set and there's not much to do once it does get dark. While the events are nice and have seem to been working for getting people to come, the consensus seems to be that it still is hard to be motivated/active when there's restrictions for activities, homework, little sunlight available, a pandemic, and more factors playing into all of it.

Mainly, the students are worried. Worried about keeping up in classes, worried about being able to balance their schedule while being able to continue taking care of themselves, worried about staying as safe as possible while keeping in touch with their friends and families, worried about how this school is handling everything. While students do have hope in Northland College for making the right decisions, it's still hard for them to trust an institution that is privately based because students are learning to challenge the actions and decisions our institutions are making. The students strive to feel safe and are looking for as much transparency as they can get right now.

Students ask that the Board understands that they are struggling. While students are making a conscious effort and choice to continue getting an education, they deserve to have their voices heard and their needs met, to the best of the Board's abilities.

Be well in this time,

Lucy Herman and Kaya Luck