

# Automotive Technology Program Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes December 11, 2013

Members present: Oliver Taylor, John Miller, Dan Williams, Will Mobley, Joe Funk, Michael Richards, Jeff Cummings, Zach Sidebottom. Visiting: Jack Shepherd. Absent: Jose Castillo, Ryan Thomson, Ken Rocha, Jeremy Rasmussen, Tony Colella.

Approval of Minutes; motion to approve by, John Miller seconded by Will Mobley, approved unanimously.

Dean Cummings gave a brief explanation of how important advisory committee input is to College Administration in the decision making process and thanked members for their continued support of C/R Automotive Technology Program.

Discussion Items:

## 1. NATEF Accreditation

Mike explained to the group that this is our re-accreditation year for NATEF an advisory sub group of Ryan Thomson, John Miller, and Oliver Taylor conducted a self-evaluation on Wednesday December 4, the results of which he shared with the committee. Mike expressed thanks to sub group for their hard work and for volunteering. He then asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding the self-evaluation.

Comments: Dean Cummings asked why Standard 4 Finances was rated 4.33 and Mike explained that even though the AT Budget has improved it still lacks ongoing support for NATEF required 20 hours of Professional Development and some committee members may have downgraded their rating because of that. Will Mobley asked if the lifts were certified annually and explained that he has Tetrault Services Certify all lifts at Northwood annually. Dean Cummings indicated support for having C/R's lifts certified and asked Mike to get some numbers for him. There was some discussion about the vehicle fleet used for training and Mike explained that manufacturers have declined to donate vehicles due to our remote geographic location frequently citing too small of a dealer network served. We have done well in getting vehicle donations from individuals but most don't have the high tech electronics that would really enhance student learning opportunities. Joe asked about the low rating on Standard 9.7 storage. Mike explained that the program has maxed out on storage at this time however, the AT Program has been allocated \$350K from remaining Measure Q Funds for training aids and expansion possibly into the current printing services area. He explained that the program hoped to be able to purchase modular trainers for high tech electronics such as CAN bus systems.

He then requested advisory members sign the NATEF application in support of the re-accreditation effort. Mike then made a request for NATEF Site visit team members, one from a dealership, one from an independent shop, a third from either a dealership, independent shop, or an automobile training program, and an alternate from either. He explained they could not be advisory members or program graduates in the last 5 years and that we need to get confirmation prior to sending NATEF the application for accreditation. It is recommended that team members be ASE Certified professionals.

Comments: Will Mobley indicated he had a tech who he thought would be interested in serving as a team member and said he would talk with him and get back to Mike. Jack Shepherd who was visiting from McKinleyville High School volunteered to serve as a team member. Mike indicated he would start calling on independent shops in the area to fill the remaining team member slot.

## 2. Full-Time Faculty Hiring Prioritization Meeting

Mike expressed concern at the recent loss of Instructor Paul Hidy, who was also our only BAR instructor, and briefly explained the faculty hiring prioritization process at the college. He further indicated that Automotive was ranked 8<sup>th</sup> out of 19 requests making it very unlikely to fill the position for the foreseeable future.

Comments: The committee felt the lack of commitment for replacing Paul Hidy was ridiculous and would result in fewer completers ready to enter the workforce at a time when more are needed.

## 3. Curriculum, Past, Present, and Future

Mike explained the impact the loss of Paul Hidy will have on the Automotive Program's ability to offer classes as well as the planned implementation of the NATEF MLR curriculum. He explained the difficulty in the past years of having only one instructor to cover all 8 ASE Specialty Areas and the extended time period, 3 years, to complete the program.

Comments: There was a general disappointment among committee members. Mike explained that even if we had been ranked higher there may not have been sufficient funds to hire another faculty anyway due to ongoing budget problems. He hoped to get a higher ranking next year and hoped the budget would improve.

Mike requested input from the committee on implementation of the MLR curriculum.

Comments: Committee members Will Mobley and Joe Funk expressed strong support for developing an MLR curriculum and Mike agreed to look over the numbers and prepare some possible curriculum changes for the next meeting.

He also needed to understand how important it was to the local industry that the program cover all 8 ASE areas.

Comments: No one present felt that any ASE Area should be dropped from the program.

#### 4. Professional Development

##### a. ACDC

Mike gave a brief synopsis of his recent experience in MA at the ACDC UYV Training.

Comments: Committee members supported Mike's efforts to incorporate hybrid training into the curriculum.

Adjournment (approximately 8:45pm)