

Automotive Technology Program Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes December 10, 2015

Members present: Oliver Taylor, John Miller, Ryan Thomson, Ken Rocha, Jose Castillo, Michael Richards. Absent: Lacey Cunningham, Will Mobley, Dan Williams, Jeremy Rasmussen, John Neely.

Call to order 6:30 pm.

Action items:

Approval of Minutes; motion to approve by, John Miller seconded by Ryan Thomson, approved unanimously.

Discussion Items:

1. Maintenance & Light Repair Certificate Development

Mike passed out copies of the NATEF MLR Task List for discussion. He described the development process of course work and Certificate of Completion for MLR. He explained how he thought the AT 16 Basic Electrical and AT 12 Automotive Brake Systems were integral to MLR with some modifications. He explained how envisioned joining AT 12 Brakes with AT 20 Suspension & Steering and making them Basic Brake & Suspension Systems and Advanced Brake & Suspension Systems. He explained how that would allow for inclusion of The Basic Brake & Suspension System version along with our current AT 16 Basic Electrical Systems and one or two new Automotive Inspection & Maintenance courses to lead to the new MLR Certificate. From discussion with Dean Marla Gleave the expected roll out of this certificate and course offerings would be Fall 2017.

Questions and/or comments:

Mike asked, will student completers be employable with this level of training?

- Ryan expressed concern that students would not be prepared to perform brake and suspension work. He asked if the curriculum would still cover that.
- Mike explained that MLR would be a 1 year certificate and students wishing to continue would still complete curriculum and training similar to current level
- John Miller stated that he recently hired AT Program Completer Joe Werner and was very pleased with Joe's knowledge, skills, and work ethic. He indicated concern that students completing MLR only would be lacking the skills that make Joe an asset.

- Ken Rocha also stated that he has hired program completers in the past and currently student Justin Markin and all have been good employees who were able to adapt to work required of them quickly. He also expressed concern regarding the proposed curriculum changes and the impact it might have on the skill set development of student completers.
- Ryan said he felt MLR level students would be inadequately trained for the level of work required to be employed by the City Maintenance Department.
- Jose and Oliver also expressed support for the current level of technical training offered.
- Mike reassured the committee members that students completing a 2 year Certificate of Achievement or Associate of Science, Automotive Technology would still be trained to the same level of technical skill as current completers. He explained that our local dealership service managers have been very supportive of the MLR concept as they want to hire completers trained to do this level of work and then refer them to factory training for specific car lines.
- Mike expressed concern regarding pre-requisite courses possibly negatively impacting the ability to fill classes. He explained that currently AT courses are among the first to fill at CR and have a history of filling to capacity since 2001, his second year at CR when he implemented the current NATEF course structure. He informed the group that this was not the norm for auto training programs as Mike attends state and national automotive educator conferences annually and the number one concern he hears from programs that are much larger and better equipped is the lack of students.
- The group wanted to review what was driving these proposed changes to the program as the majority present were very satisfied with the current structure.
- Mike explained that NATEF conducted thorough research that supports the shortage of qualified personnel to perform automotive work to the MLR level and that research is supported locally by our dealership service managers. He explained his plan to articulate the new basic auto coursework with local high schools so their completers would be able to start right into ASE type coursework. He also planned on developing a challenge test for students with some industry experience who wish to test out of the basic coursework. He assured the committee that student completers of the full program would still receive the same level of training that they do now. The only difference is students will be able to complete the MLR curriculum in one year and be eligible for work in the field as an MLR tech, the hope is that they will continue their work towards the 2 Year Certificate of Achievement or AAS Degree.
- Ryan, John, Ken, and Jose all stated that as long as the MLR program wouldn't result in a reduced level of training for student completers of the regular program and would in fact benefit the dealership folks they were in favor of moving forward with it.

2. Committee Membership

Mike informed the committee that we are ending a 2 year commitment of membership and that Will Mobley, Jeremy Rasmussen, Dan Williams, John Neely, indicated by phone that they would like to continue to serve another 2 year term. Oliver, John, Ken, Ryan, and Jose all committed to serve another 2 year term beginning Spring 2016.

Questions and/or comments:

3. Measure Q Update

A. Program Expansion

Mike explained the expansion plans weren't going well. After the state architects reviewed all building plans the cost went up significantly and they added a shear wall in the diesel lab that would take up one of the bay door entrances. There is insufficient funds left to cover the added cost so he will be requesting some new shop equipment with the remaining funds.

Motion to adjourn made by, Ryan Thompson, seconded by, John Miller , approved unanimously.

Adjourned at 8:30 pm