

# Automotive Advisory Meeting

## Minutes from the 12/20/2019 meeting

Members Present: Crisy Zeimtez, Katrina Simser, Jessica Galavits, John Miller, Will Mobley, Mark Topping, Ernest Shull, Anibal Florez.

Call to order at 5:10 pm

### Action items:

1. Approval of the minutes; motion to approve by John Miller seconded by Will Mobley.
2. Introductions; Anibal started a round of introductions so that everyone in the room had a chance to introduce themselves. There were new attendees in the room that evening. The people present were:
  - Anibal Florez, automotive instructor for CR.
  - Ernest Shull, associate faculty helping teach the automotive program at CR. (at that time)
  - Mark Topping, business owner of North Coast Cycle.
  - Katrina Simser, service manager at BMW of Humboldt Bay. (at that time)
  - Will Mobley, service manager of Northwood Chevrolet.
  - Crisy Zeimetz, service technician at Harper Ford, program graduate.
  - Jessica Galavits, current student in the program. Second year.
  - John Miller, service manager for State Parks' vehicle fleet, program graduate.

### Discussion items:

1. ASE accreditation visit.

Anibal update the committee on the program status regarding the ASE master level accreditation. The program is once again approved and accredited at the highest level by ASE for the next five years.

Anibal also told the committee that although the program will not be due for another formal evaluation visit for five years that at the two and a half year mark the program will submit a self-evaluation as part of the ongoing process.

2. HEV program discussion item:

The committee was updated on the idle status of the HEV program development due to both Mike Richard's retirement and the absenteeism of his replacement during the fall semester he was scheduled to start working for the college.

The committee is aware that the college was awarded funds for the development of the HEV program and that some equipment and vehicles were purchased for that purpose. The committee was also made aware that with limited full time staff that the main focus of the automotive program will be with the

core subject areas and that the HEV course work will be developed when time and personnel are available. Update training on HEVs is also being researched for full time faculty in hopes of furthering the HEV curriculum development.

The committee was also made aware that the college will be continuing the search for another full time faculty for the automotive program.

Comments:

Crisy volunteered some insight regarding the importance of the HEV program. She advised that Ford in particular is getting ready to release fully electric performance vehicles and dropping smaller gasoline based vehicles. (It is very plausible that other carlines will start doing the same.)

Will Mobley volunteered his point of view based from his experience in the automotive business. He said he has noticed that every time there is some kind of technological advance in the automotive industry there is always a lack of qualified individuals to take on the new responsibilities of diagnosis and repair on the new technologies. Also, there is a lack of qualified instructors for the new technologies as well.

Mark Topping followed by stating that in his experience he has noticed that a good foundation of electrical theory and diagnosis is always lacking in the service industry. And that now it is the very thing at the forefront of this industry. Education in electrical is a must, there is no way around it.

### 3. MLR certificate discussion item:

Anibal updated the committee about the development of the MLR curriculum, specifically following their recommendations to focus more on scan tool use and diagnosis and not so much on engine teardown and rebuilding within lower division classes.

Changes include changing AT-18 to AT-21 and to include diagnosis replacing the weeks covering engine teardown and rebuilding.

The MLR one year certificate also includes the new AT-10 introduction to automotive technology. The certificate and its courses are stackable towards completing the two year certificate or the associate degree if the general education courses are also completed.

The AT-10 class takes selective tasks and theory from all the program courses as an introduction to the different systems on a vehicle.

Ernest described how the first AT-10 course offering went. Introducing students to servicing various tools including DSOs, scan tools, and other diagnostic tools. He also shared that in that AT-10 course there were several students who had never touched an automotive tool.

The instructors handed out papers listing the lab tasks relative to the AT-21 and the new AT-10 course that we have the students complete given enough time and comprehension of the material. These are the P1, P2, and P3 type of ASE recommended tasks.

## Comments:

John Miller asked about the completers of the one year certificate and if they had expressed any interest in coming back to continue with the remaining program offerings. Ernest having been in contract with those intro students seem to think that they were interested in coming back. Based on conversations with those students.

It is worth noting that keeping track of program students has been an ongoing issue with the program. Tracking current and graduate students has proven difficult.

John Milller also asked about the enrollment in the remaining courses other than the MLR related courses and the instructors provided the numbers: AT-18 was at the cap. AT-20 had 17 and AT-12 had 17 students. AT-28 had 15 of the 17 that started. So pretty much average overall.

John also asked if enrollment was impacted at all by the new course or one year program pathway. Anibal explained that with the addition of the new AT-10 intro course the program units would go over the goal of 40 total units.

The fix was to eventually discontinue AT-22 which was essentially AT-16 reiterated with some additional information and tasks. The main component in AT-22 being the EV/HEV module that will eventually become its own course anyway. So discontinuing AT-22 will keep the units at 40.

Crisy Zeimetz asked if there is going to be a prerequisite to the HEV class. The answer was definitely. Students would have to pass the AT-16 basic electrical class first.

Fall semester on 2019 was the first MLR related course. It was recognized and approved by the curriculum committee.

Anibal informed the committee that at that time the dean had passed on some data related to enrollment. Thanks to many outreach events both on and off campus the enrollment for the program was up 32.8 percent from the previous academic year. (18/19)

Mark Topping shared with the group that there is more emphasis towards the trades lately. Including high schools have started to revamp their trades programs. There is a stronger push for the trades.

He also shared that showing up to work is what it takes and the ones who have been in the trades are ready to retire.

Crisy Zeimetz shared that job fairs she has attended or hosted a table at don't include local automotive programs. Often the case is that the local community are not aware of the local automotive program at CR.

The general consensus amongst the group was that greater exposure for the program is needed in the community.

Mark Topping also shared the idea of being able to "play" with the students within the program. Being enthused is part of it.

Anibal shared that waiver forms are always at play and more are necessary whenever something new happens. Recently due to a small accident with a fleet vehicle students are no longer allowed to use their personal vehicles for shop activities. Due to liability and possible personal injury.

Anibal shared that he is making progress in working with the language necessary in a waiver form for the students to sign every semester so that they may use their personal vehicles like before.

For the get to “play” component there is an open lab day in the works along with the idea of an autocross vehicle to work on with the students. There are barriers but hopefully this idea comes to fruition.

#### 4. Vehicle Fleet update:

Funds were awarded to the program for the purpose of updating the teaching fleet. \$50k are now being put to use purchasing newer vehicles and replacing old and worn out vehicles with the new purchases.

#### 5. Harper Ford Sponsorship:

News was delivered to the committee regarding the local Ford dealership sponsoring the automotive program. This allows the current students to have access for Ford online technical training modules if they desire to go to work for a Ford dealership in the future.

Crisy Zeimetz agreed that it was a great opportunity for the students to start working away at these because in order for tech to be sent to Ford technical training sessions the techs must complete these online modules first. She also shared that the reason she needs to be present in the committee is due to the sponsorship! Thank you Crisy and thank you Ford.

#### 6. Entry level ASE certification:

The program now offers on campus proctoring of the ASE entry level certification for our students if they want to become certified by ASE when or before they leave the program. It's not the experienced technician level ASE cert but it is industry recognized and looks good on a resume to some shops. So that is a new development as well. Some students have taken the opportunity to become ASE certified at the entry level though those tests.

#### 7. Open discussion item: internships

Anibal put forward to the group an idea that some college faculty are working on and that is to develop a pool of business who are willing to entertain interns. So college programs like automotive would select the cream of the crop to fill those intern positions within participating shops.

The group reaction was positive. John Miller said that there are volunteer possibilities within the California parks. Will Mobley also expressed interest in the internship idea.

6:40 meeting adjourned after small talk.