

Welding Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes for 03.16.2011 Thursday, March 17, 2011

Members present: Lori Bryer, Jim Collins, John Crosswhite, Arley Eglian (for Bill DeFouri), Dennis Hake, Kurt Kernen, Aaron Libow, John McBeth, Mike Peterson, Prudence Ratliff, and Danny Walker.

Members absent: Steve Brown, Tim Crowley, Gary Morris, Charlie Moyer. Utpal Goswami (interim CR President).

Guest: Lesley Sundberg (caterer and cookie maker)

-The meeting started at 6:05 with introductions and DW acknowledging retiring members Kevin Williams and past CR president Jeff Marsee.

-DW gave a brief overview of the Welding Advisory Committee purpose and provided a printed packet of agenda items to each member. We discussed the importance of documentation of PLO/SLO's. A request was made for member input by writing their individual perspective learning outcomes on a provided handout sheet by the meeting conclusion.

The results to a question "Can you think of one, two or three things that you think a welding student should learn before entering the workforce" showed the following responses:

- o They should be able to make a dimensioned isometric sketch or a 2-view drawing
- o Be able to read a print
- o Oxygen is a dangerous gas. I have met individuals that think O2 and compressed air is the same thing. They are not. O2 and any combustible can become a bomb! Read about O2 accidents online, it's amazing what has happened in seemingly safe acts.
- o SAFETY
- o Don't strike a torch with a BIC lighter. Again I have met individuals that do this everyday.
- o Soft skills. Show up, on time, prepared for work.
- o I feel prep work and layout
- o Basic math skills
- o Read a tape
- o Simple blue print reading
- o Basic welding skills (stick)
- o Layout skills
- o Blue print reading/proofing

-We reviewed the four semester tool list and determined that it was acceptable "as is" with the exception of a few item costs that were low. It would be a good idea to update those to current prices, such as the text book. Discussion around the high cost found that the text was used for all welding classes; that the upfront and one time cost was really a pretty good deal.

-DW discussed the DOL grant one year temporary full time faculty position and equipment that was acquired for the WT Program; the creation of a General Welding Certificate and the eight students who were able to apply as academic completers; the thirteen students who weld qualified with thirty four AWS weld certifications; the reasons why the instructor did not attend the AWS/CWE-CWI training schedule and the importance (or not) of going; the ability and costs (\$2300, + inspector travel, + \$300 annual) of CR welding facility becoming an ATF-accredited test facility with AWS. LB asks if it was worth the cost as a recruitment tool. MP suggests that another option might be adding the WT program to the ATMAE (NAIT) organization which our CT and DT programs currently are recognized. JC questions the need if the classes are fully enrolled. DW affirms that classes are full and some over cap. MP acknowledges the high enrollment. PR suggests that a discussion about grant funding may be possible and that she would research the possibility.

-We discussed the new full time permanent faculty hire; the possibility for students to once again obtain an AWS degree once DW finishes updating the current records with the chancellors' office and wanting to add a course for the new plasma cutting machine; the advantage for students to become "completers" of certificates and degree will be enhanced or returned to CR; the enrollment increase due to more classes offered and in particular those four unit courses for degree bound students; keeping students at CR versus transferring to other institutions.

-We discussed articulation with local high schools and UCSLO; the ASSIST program where information can be obtained on who has articulations in place; DW requests that PR explain a problem that our CR students have with not having record of an articulated class show on their transcript until twelve units have been completed. Discussion followed and DH recommended that a letter of response be sent from the advisory committee versus individual members to remove the twelve unit requirement that it penalizes the student for no apparent reason. The group consensus was that a letter would be created by the committee for more impact.

-JC suggested internships with his company be possible. Group discussion around finding employees with job etiquette, soft skills as well as job skills is a continuing problem for employers and that the internship method might be a way to "weed out" those who will not make expectations or "improve" the skills of those who have potential. DW expressed thanks for the offer and more discussion and research should follow.

-DW makes note of inviting Dennis Mullens from EDD-Eureka to the meeting for his resources of data and personal perspective on labor market conditions. A discussion followed about the "retiring baby boomer" and large employment potential for welding students and the 90 related industries which also use some welding process.

-A short tour of the welding facility was held as time was running short.

-The scheduled next meeting will be next January 2012 unless conditions suggest an earlier meeting is needed.

-Meeting adjourned at 7:17pm