

College of the Redwoods Welding Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes - 2013.05.09

- Meeting started at 12:00 with lunch being served and sign in sheet available along with minutes from May 2012 meeting.

Attendance:

- Discussion began at 12:15 p.m. with members self-introductions: Aaron Lebow (self-employed), Jeff Cummings (CR CTE Dean), Jan Moorehouse (HROP), John McBeth (O&M Industries), Jim Pacheco (PGE), Fred VanVleck (Eureka City Schools Superintendent), Steve Kioukis (Q-Kiss Motorsports), Danny Walker (CR Welding instructor).

Student Enrollment Numbers:

- Danny Walker reported that attendance is up: the program is now in the position of having to actually turn away students. Normally, the courses are capped at 20. However, 86 students are enrolled for Spring 2013 semester, which is 10% over cap (CR administration requested the increase for financial purposes).

Part Time Faculty Position / Newly Hired Mindy Bacon:

- CR will be adding more welding classes, to be taught by part time instructor Mindy Bacon, former welder with the Coast Guard. She will teach a Welding WT53 class this summer in a short 10 week session. There are 12-15 courses available, and typically four are in welding taught each year, with most being open entry.

Overview WT of Program Review, Including Learning Outcomes:

- The program is undergoing a program review, which is an annual document to let everyone know how the program is performing. The report includes programmatic assessment of the students, as well as needs for equipment and so forth.
- The State is asking community colleges to be more accountable, specifically by moving to degree (A.S. in welding) and certificate programs. The department is updating course learning outcomes. It has been difficult to achieve persistence in CTE areas because students often take one course, acquire some skills, and then use those skills to get a job. The State wants to see enrollment primarily consisting of students who are going to school full-time. Students sign up for welding courses from other departments (such as Agriculture, Machining, and Construction). They just want a course to beef up their skills in a specific area, not for the degree. One recent CR student, from Africa, took just three courses, then was hired by O&M and on from there to Amulet, then went to Seattle for a job in underwater welding. Now he is welding all over the world, making a very good income. Another student from this semester took one course and before completion was hired by Johnson Industries in Arcata.
- The program is currently set up to certify in E7018, E6010, wire feed E70S6, E71T to AWS standards, using 3/8" plates, vertically, etc. Is there something else we should be teaching?

Facility Update/Roof over Backyard:

- The CR board and Measure Q fund committee has approved to erect a roof over the back slab. This will allow work on trailers, vehicles, and projects by students. This will help with classes held during the rainy season and at night, too. The program encourages projects but only requires welds. With more room, it's probable that more students will opt for projects. Members suggested looking for a blue print that is pre-approved by Division of the State Architect (DSA). Trying to keep cost around \$150,000. (Members of the committee suggested

places to call to locate such pre-approved plans, such as calling DSA and asking around for “shade structures” which are often installed on K-12 campuses in high heat areas. Jeff Cummings knew someone at Lassen College that might be a good contact, and Fred VanVleck suggested checking with agriculture programs.) The groups guessed it would be difficult to complete anything newly designed for that price. Also, recommendation was to make the roof elevation as high as possible, which provides clearance for large projects as well as ventilation.

Danny Walker Attended Weld-Ed Seminar, etc.:

- Danny reported that last Summer 2012 he attended a Weld Ed program (robotics) in South Carolina. It was held at ESAB welding company. As an old time shop, it is being renovated with top of the line robotics. They also build welding equipment and supplies all built in house from scratch. This year he wanted to attend a session in Texas to upgrade his skills in pipe welding and certification, but it was full. Another option was Hawaii, \$400 cheaper, and it will be attended in July. Faculties attend these sessions from all over the U.S. They use the time to compare instructional strategies, content, etc. The total cost is a plane flight plus \$99 for food, lodging.

Welding Program Promotional CD:

- Members were encouraged to go to the College of the Redwoods web site and view the video on the welding program. <http://www.redwoods.edu/Departments/Welding-Technology/> (There’s a video like this one for each of the CTE programs at CR.)

Install Committee Members as Advisory Leaders:

- Danny Walker appealed to the group for new Advisory Board members. Also, he mentioned that Advisory Boards are to be facilitated by business-based members, not by college faculty. He shared that he believes Doug Harnden or Jim Collins might be willing to facilitate. Recommendation from the attendees was to offer a co-chair opportunity. Possible co-chairs suggested: Nick Kieselhorst or Lonnie Whitlow.

Overview Discussion and Recommendations:

- The meeting was opened for comments from attendees. John of O&M stated that he believes the CR welding program has pretty well covered the skills needed in the work place. Above all he stated that he wants the people he employs to come to him with basic skills. Anything above the basic is just icing on the cake. He stated that machining and welding repairs are big business, especially in the HVAC realm. He said they are doing very little mill work at this time. 70-80% of their work is out of the area. Items are still built here but shipped out. The lion’s share of the work they are currently doing is for businesses outside of Humboldt County.
- Another member stated that stick welding—entry level skill set and a desire to work can be coupled with journeymen welders to learn additional skills. The need beyond the basics is for employees to show up sober with a good attitude and pass a drug test.
- Fred VanVleck provided an update on the welding program at Eureka High School and named a new employee for the welding instructor role that is coming from Fresno City College. HROP is not available anymore.
- Members were asked to comment on when the best time might be for the next Advisory Board meeting, members suggested that 5:00 p.m. might be better but recommended that potential members be polled as to what would work best for them.

Schedule Next Meeting and Adjournment:

- The next meeting will be scheduled in the Fall based upon a poll of members as to best date and times.
- The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m. Thanks to Jan Moorehouse for meeting minutes.