

**AUTOMOTIVE TECH ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MINUTES**

**Wednesday October 11, 2017**

**6:00-8:00 PM \* Joan Stout Hall, Room 112**

**Members Present:** Kirk VanGelder, CDX-USA; Jay Dykeman, Vancouver Express Auto Care;

**Members Absent:** Phyllis Thiemann, Heckmann & Thiemann Motors; Kenneth Dykeman, Vancouver Express Auto Care; Kevin Safley, Westech Construction; Dale Vandeberg, Vancouver Ford

**Clark College:** Tonia Haney, Automotive Department Head/Instructor; Mike Godson, Instructor; Dannie Nordsiden, Instructor; Cathy Sherick, Associate Dir. Of Instructional Planning & Innovation; Nichola Farron, Advisory Coordinator

Committee member Kirk van Gelder called the meeting to order at 6.13pm and introductions were made.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

As a quorum was not present the minutes of April 12 2017 were submitted for electronic approval. Unfortunately there were not enough respondents to record a vote of approval – with the committee on hiatus these minutes will be filed for reference.

Office of Instruction Announcements

Cathy Sherick made the following announcements:

Welcome back to 2017-18 we are excited to be rolling up our sleeves and delving in to the second year of work of our **Academic plan.**

The new **“Areas of Study”** have been adopted and approved these will provide the framework for organizing the different degree paths for students. The link is [here](http://www.clark.edu/academics/programs/index.php)

Advisory Committees will begin to see how they fit in to the implementation work of **Pathways**. The goal is to improve rates of completion, transfer and attainment of jobs. The American Association of Community Colleges (ASCC) has developed a model that articulates the implementation process. Advisory members are encouraged to review the model for understanding.

Academic plan Goal 6: *Infuse the study of* ***Power, Privilege and Inequity*** *throughout the curriculum.* Last year advisory members asked why this was happening at Clark. To answer that question, we have been working with the Office of Diversity and Equity to put together some basic information that can help frame the issue for further discussion. Watch for it on meeting agendas.

The new **McClaskey Culinary Institute (MCI)** is open and teaching students this term! The link to information about the program is [here](http://www.clark.edu/academics/programs/culinary/). We are looking forward to being able to provide our advisory members with menu items from the cuisine and baking programs.

Clark continues to see enrollment declines, which may have budget impacts. We do not anticipate further program cuts at this time, but cannot rule out the possibility of changes in the future should this trend continue. Your help in letting community members know about the great programs at Clark is appreciated!

As programs are taught out, we have terrific Advisory volunteers we hate to lose. Often we need to infuse current committees with new members, and sometimes new programs are developed that will need new advisory committees. We are working this year on the development of a **Master Advisory Committee** that will help us with three tasks.

1. Visiting current committees to talk to members and get an idea of how things are working.
2. Planning and hosting annual Advisory event.
3. Reporting to the Board of Trustees every year on the great work of Advisory Committees.

Let us know if you are interested by contacting Nic. You can be on two committees, or if you want to step away from your current committee work that is fine too.

We also wanted to thank everyone who was able to attend the **annual recognition** event held on July 13 at the new STEM building. We had beautiful weather, many cold beverages and a great time. We look forward to planning the event next year with our new Master Advisory Committees.

We will be undertaking an updated Ethics training at the spring advisory meetings.

The annual Clark College Career fair will be held in April. Advisory Committee members will be provided additional information from the career center in upcoming meetings.

Announcement Discussion

Jay asked for further information about the low enrollment; this is linked to a strong economy and echoes national trends. Cathy outlined that it is crucial to talk to parents about the potential for stable careers associated with technical two-year degrees. She also shared that approximately 40% of high school graduates are known to not go on to some form of education without a gap.

Efforts at the College level include increased advertising, and collaboration with WorkSource to reach populations such as those leaving the prison system, or in the low paid sector.

Tonia outlined that the enrollment for Automotive starts with intro courses with 30 students (2 classes of 15 for Toyota and Honda/HiTECC): there is inevitably some attrition. Tonia also noted that Automotive students in the dealer program are enrolled for 24 credits per quarter: as this is an overload, each student counts as 1.5 FTEs.

Department Updates

Tonia noted that she was disappointed to share with the Committee that there has not been any progress in launching the general automotive program. The goal of a competency-based education degree is still part of the Academic Plan, and as such is still a reality. However, the start date is being continually delayed and there is no firm agreement as to when the launch is likely. A roll-out of Fall 18 is now not viable.

Tonia continued that, in view of this, it seemed most sensible to put the Advisory Committee on hiatus until there is a more concrete plan from the College. The main cause for the delay are budgetary concerns around the need for instructors and support.

The committee members expressed their disappointment at this outcome: Kirk noted that the College administration had given indications that would be a general program in place to support the independent shops.

Tonia encouraged the Advisory Members to more formally voice their frustrations and concerns to the College administration.

Mike also spoke to how the program would be an opportunity for those students who were not able to enter the dealer-ready programs and deal with the 24-credit work load that that entails. With increasing gaps in the skills provided at the High School class level – for example in electrical – the general program would have been an opportunity for students to develop a broader knowledge base. He continued that there is hope that an influx of dollars into the field may lead to some improvement.

The committee also discussed the need for independent shop owners, and local professional organizations, to provide support for educational initiatives and offer their voice and influence to establish programs. Kirk reiterated that the voices of local business owners need to be more prominent in this regard, especially on School Boards and in the educational arena.

Tonia thanked the committee members for their previous support of curriculum design and program planning. Nichola also reminded the committee that, even on hiatus, they could meet informally to discuss strategy etc. whilst they wait for more movement from the College.

Tonia concluded that, despite feeling disheartened, the fact the competency-based program remains a goal stated in the Academic Plan meant that she hoped to have developments in the future.

The meeting adjourned 6.52pm

*Please note: as the committee is on hiatus, these minutes will be added to the archive but will not be subject to a vote for approval.*

Prepared by Nichola Farron