



MECHATRONICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015 * 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Columbia Tech Center, Room 208

Members Present: Zeb Hallmark, Committee Chair, Linear Technology; Chris Taylor, Vice Chair, Daimler Trucks North America; Carl Hagstrom, HAS; Silviu Spiridon, Linear Technology; Nirav Sheth, SEH America; John Smith, Lab-Volt Systems, Inc.; Jeremy Neyens, ISO Poly Films

Clark College: Chris Lewis, Department Head/Mechatronics Professor; Ken Luccini, Instructor; Morris Giesler, Instructor; Brianna Lisenbee, Career Services; Brittany Brist, Advising Department; Andreana DiGiorgio, Advisory Committee Coordinator

Committee Chair Zeb Hallmark called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

The minutes were reviewed and a motion was made to approve the October 14, 2014 minutes. The motion was seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Advisory Committee Recognition event – Andreana announced that the College is planning an advisory member recognition breakfast on March 18, 2015 from 7:00—9:30 a.m. Regional economist Scott Bailey will be guest speaker and will give an economic report on the state of Washington and also our region. She told the members to be watching for more information in the coming weeks.

Director/Division Chair Report:

National Science Foundation Grant. Chris Lewis reported about an exciting grant opportunity coming up in the near future for the Mechatronics program. Clark College is going after a \$200,000 National Science Foundation grant. Chris, Ken Luccini, Genevieve Howard and Clark's grant writer went to a workshop in Florida called Mentor Connect. The workshop is specifically for community colleges to assist in writing National Science Foundation grants. Clark College's service district includes three counties, two of which are very poor and rural. We want to try and connect with those members of the community and offer mechatronics opportunities. Chris said he's been wanting to serve this industry that is screaming for qualified and technically trained employees. The first four courses will cover four courses, including safety, basic tools, DC-AC, Pneumatics and hydraulics classes to be offered both online and hybrid. The second phase of the grant will go after a mobile lab unit. In that unit will be robotics, hydraulics, and pneumatics. This unit will be for use in rural areas like Skamania County. The grant will be submitted in October 2015. This is a hands-on training pathway for students. There are about 20 colleges going after this grant. Nirav asked how long before they start working on this new offering and Chris said we have to wait for the grant approval and thought it could be up to a year before they get working on this. Aside from the grant, Chris will be looking to the committee members and employers with letters that illustrate the need for employees and a guarantee of interviews for our graduates. Chris said he will need something tangible to submit with the grant.

Work Plan:

The work plan was discussed throughout the meeting. The committee added changing the math requirement to get into the program. For a look at the work plan, members can go to the Mechatronics web page:

<http://www.clark.edu/advisory/mach/index.php>

New Business:

Chris began by saying the program is getting a bit long in the tooth as far as updating the program and he is specifically looking at lowering the math requirement. The math level for entry into a lot of programs across campus is a problem. He would like to come up with a creative way to figure out if the math prerequisite can be lowered. Roger tutored math for four years at main campus and said people have trouble with fractions, even if they have taken and passed algebra. Fractions and ratios are important in the Mechatronics program. The basic requirement for the 101 class requires Math 090 but students have to take Math 089 and there is not much difference between the two. Fundamentally he doesn't see a reason for these other math classes... Math 090 is important though. For a degree in this program the student needs to be at a math 100 level. Chris would like the committee to look at the math requirements and let him know if it's appropriate.

A motion was made to make the math entry requirement into the Mechatronics program at a level of Math 089 or if the Compass test places the student there. The motion was seconded and it passed unanimously. This will be added to the work plan with Chris submitting a Curriculum Action Request (CAR) to Curriculum Committee to formally make the change.

Election of Officers. Zeb and Chris both offered to serve as chair and vice chair for another two-year term. *The committee made a motion to elect Zeb Hallmark as committee chair and Chris Taylor as vice chair. The motion was unanimously passed.*

Nirav asked about the Skills Center mentoring project. Chris said there is no movement yet. Chris was approached by in situ mentoring out in the gorge with the CADD and aerospace club. Not sure how much Mechatronics will be involved in this.

Brianna Lisenbee of Career Services said this information is great to know to forward to her department and also the advisors. They have many students who are interested in the program. Chris said last year 13 graduated and in June and by September all 13 had been placed in jobs at \$22 to \$26 an hour.

Faculty will be working with Initec training on several units they've donated to the college. Students will be trained on HVAC and thermal controls.

Silviu said that the State of Washington is offering a new apprenticeship program through Impact Washington. Money will be given to companies for apprenticeships.

Chris asked instructor Morris Geisler to tell his story. Chris was a student of Morris's, Chris then started teaching and the rest is history. Last summer they got together and Chris asked Morris if he'd like to join the program and teach business courses. He is in the process of going through and reviewing the local businesses so that he can teach the students about the business aspect of the program. Students need to know how to read the Wall Street Journal, for example, and also read and analyze charts among other things. He and Chris want to create an Intro to Business to be included in course MTX 295. Morris also wants to include oral and written communication, note taking and know what to do with those notes. Students will have a good foundation of business the business aspect. Roger asked Morris what the definition of management is. He said it is the effective, efficient, economical use of resources to reach a predetermined objective. Key words here are "predetermined objective".

Chris mentioned the College is looking at a trade math course. More talk of math levels.

Evening classes are the most popular. Capstone project presentations in June.

Summary of Meeting:

Zeb summarized the meeting and thanked the members for coming.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. This meeting was adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.