

**WELDING TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MINUTES**

**Wednesday October 4 2017 \* 5:30 to 7:00 PM**

**AA2, Room 105**

**Members Present:** Paul Sibley, Committee Chair, 360 Sheet Metal; Mark Stanley, Committee Vice Chair, Columbia Machine; Larry Stanks, Retired; Gary Stone, Stone Consulting Services; David Patterson, Mt View HS; Patrick Gonzales, Former Instructor; Michael Williams, Samson Sports

**Members Absent:**, Bob Tafolla, BPA; Larry Stanks, BPA; Nathan Marks, Mark Brothers, Inc.; Jason Peterson, Vigor Fab; James Duncan, Frontier Fabrication

**Guests:** Kale Park, student

**Clark College:** Caleb White, Department Head; Brian McVay, Welding Instructor; Cathy Sherick, Assoc. Dir. of Instructional Programming & Innovation; Nichola Farron, Advisory Coordinator

Committee Chair Paul Sibley called the meeting to order at 5.34pm and introductions were made.

Approval of Previous Minutes

*The minutes of May 18 2017 were presented: Larry proposed they be approved as written. This was seconded by Mark and passed unanimously.*

Next Meeting Date

The committee will next meet on Wednesday May 9 2018 at 5.30pm

Office of Instruction 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 May. Advisory Committee members will be provided additional information from the career center in upcoming meetings.

High School Articulations

Caleb spoke about ongoing efforts to articulate with local high schools: now that David Patterson (a graduate of the Clark program) is teaching at Mountain View there may be an option to articulate classes there. The issue arises in that many High Schools do not have a comparable level of equipment or resources to help prepare students. One option might be to bring High School students to the Clark facility, for example on a Friday, to give better exposure to the equipment.

There are currently articulations with Fort Vancouver High School and Washougal High School.

Cathy continued that there is a College effort to increase articulations and options for High School students to transition into Clark, for example through the promotion of professional technical writing skills, math, and English. There is also the option of College 101 being taught in the High School.

On November 16, a meeting will be held with High School faculty and counsellors to discuss how to make strategies work and continue to develop these connections.

Columbian Insert

Cathy outlined that there will be an insert developed for *The Columbian* to coincide with Professional-Technical Day in February 2018. She reminded the Committee members that they are welcome to commission ad space in the insert to promote their business. The focus will particularly be on educating parents on the career potential associated with technical degrees.

Low Enrollment

Cathy shared that Clark College continues to experience a decline in enrollment, which is currently believed to be roughly 5% less than last year. Continual messaging around four-year schools being the only option for establishing a career not only do not reflect reality, but also work against the College; as does the strong economy. Cathy continued that Advisory committee members could help by spreading the word about Clark and its programs, especially to High School students.

Guided Pathways

Cathy outlined that the Guided Pathways model will be based on the concept of completing Gen Ed requirements at the beginning of a degree, whilst also making students aware of the services that exist to support them.

Data also shows that a certificate or benchmark achievement early in the process helps with retention.

Brian spoke of the need to be cautious: students with anxiety about math or English may opt not to undertake the program at all if it is required at the beginning.

The committee discussed the need for students to have good basic math and geometry, and how those skills could be the difference between a “good welder or a great fitter”.

Following conversation about the need to bolster enrollment, Cathy also spoke about ways there could be improved outreach to those leaving prisons. The committee agreed that, as employers, there were variable circumstances that mean that it was not always a block to being hired. With increasing workforce need employers are being more lenient with testing and other entry requirements.

Patrick also spoke about the model used in the automotive department with a specialized recruiter. It was agreed that this was effective and it is hoped that there might be a possibility for replicating it in other departments in the future.

The committee discussed how there should be further connections made with employers to support the program. Brian spoke about how there is the option for specialized training through ECD, but that it would be difficult to structure the curriculum for one specific employer. Caleb noted that there is not a dominant industry leader in the area - for example a shipyard - that a particular curriculum could be developed for.

Patrick continued that there would be value in hosting workshops and seminars to offer a high-level training. The committee discussed various subjects that could be covered, including wire, aluminum, welding gasses etc. Brian hopes to work with the AWS to host a conference, especially as their executive cabinet has recently had some personnel changes.

The committee then discussed how for-profit Colleges are creating employees with a lower skillset. Mark noted that the Columbia skills assessment closely mirrors the Clark College model.

Equipment

Caleb provided information on the new CNC plasma purchased by the department for $96k. Caleb and Brian looked at various machines but opted for the Prostar PRS 100 high-definition cutting machine; it also has an oxy torch attachment. There is a software package with 30 CAD licenses and additional safety features.

The department is hoping for delivery of the new machine in the next few weeks. The old machine will be sold on the government surplus site according to procedure. Caleb said that although they had to use $12k of department funds towards the machine, he is excited about the potential for greater accuracy that it offers.

The committee agreed that the new machine would more accurately mirror industry and give students better familiarity with shop conditions.

Boat Update

Caleb outlined that the CADD program are working on the next iteration of the boat project: the project will be split across two classes and have extra features such as an anchor locker and seat cover.

Students are also encouraged to work on print reviews; Caleb is hopeful that the committee will be able to review the boat at the next meeting.

Fabrication Project – Winter Quarter

Caleb outlined that the plan is to build a pressure vessel again, but with only one class, it is harder to maintain the scale of labor without cutting into lecture time.

As such, the project is being modified: it will start as a pressure vessel, and then be modified into a BBQ and rotisserie to support the culinary program. It will still be hydro tested. If successful, this format will be used every year.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.04pm

Prepared by Nichola Farron