



Diesel -MINUTES
April 29, 2025, at 12:00 PM
Clark College JSH Room 116

Members Present: Mike Taylor (Committee Chair), Instructor, Cascadia Technical Academy; Jason Graves (Vice-Chair), Supervisor, Fleet Maint. FedEx Freight; Andy Turlo, District Manager, TForce Freight; Jake Mahan, Fleet Acquisition Analyst, City of Vancouver

Guests:

Members Absent: Luis Trejo, Shop Supervisor, FedEx Freight; Michelle Dilwith-Lacenda, Sr Talent Acquisition Manager, FedEx Freight; Dan Zenger, Fleet Manager, City of Vancouver; Sami Andrews, Recruiter and College Relations Specialist, Modern Machinery

Labor Representative:

Clark College: Theo Koupelis, Dean of WPTE & STEM, Clark College; Don Gonser, Department Chair, Clark College; Jeff Rush, Instructor, Clark College; Wendy Fisher, Academic Advisor, Clark College; Elizabeth Flores, Advisory Coordinator, Clark College

The meeting began at 12:04 PM

NEXT MEETING DATE

The committee will meet next on November 4, 2025, at Noon.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the previous meeting on February 4, 2025, were approved.

COLLEGE UPDATES

Kathy invited all members to the upcoming advisory committee thank you event at the Advanced Manufacturing Center with food and beverages provided.

Theo shared that the College is currently conducting interviews for two positions: Vice President of Student Affairs and Director of Human Resources.

Jeff shared that no official decision has been made at this time. According to Dr. Brown, the program is still undergoing evaluation as part of the program review process.

Jeff shared that the program is currently not accepting first-year students for the upcoming academic year temporarily. and all continuing students already enrolled in the program will be able to complete their degrees. Jeff discussed the need to re-evaluate the program direction and all considerations.

Jason recommended partnering with Cascadia Technical Academy to see what local high school students need to prepare for in preparation for the Clark College program.

Jeff discussed a recent meeting with Dr. Brown regarding the program's evaluation.

Mike requested for more communication and what information he can provide Cascadia Technical Academy students who planned on attending Clark College.

ENROLLMENT

Don shared enrollment data in response to Michelle's question at the winter meeting.

1 student employed at Modern Machinery.

1 student is self-employed

2 students employed at C-TRAN.

1 student is undecided.

2 students reported they are leaning towards heavy equipment.

2 students are interested in heavy duty truck repair.

6 students are interested in heavy equipment.

3 students are interested in trucking.

2 students are interested in transit.

1 student is interested in auto.

4 students are undecided.

Don shared that there are 9 students in the first year and 16 students in the second year.

EQUIPMENT

Jeff shared that the program purchased 5,000 worth of new equipment including: a floor jack, transmission jack, brake buddy, pressure testers, and a wheel dolly. The program was able to purchase new equipment through the student fees. Additionally, some items were purchased for the electrical class, and this has been a positive benefit as the second year currently working on brakes.

Don shared that, with support from the Modern Machinery Grant, the program was able to purchase additional equipment.

Jeff shared that Portland Tractor will be partnering with the program by co-teaching alongside him for eight days. They will also be bringing in equipment and generously donating half of a gearbox and transmission. The partnership is a welcome opportunity to advocate for heavy equipment training and support the program through instructional contributions such as teaching specific modules.

OLD BUSINESS

There is no new business currently.

STUDENT INTERVIEWS

Don welcomed employers to participate in student interviews.

Jason provided an overview of FedEx's internship and apprenticeship program processes, including both internal and external aspects. He shared that there are currently five technicians participating in the apprenticeship program, all of whom are expected to be hired upon completing the program.

FedEx also offers tuition reimbursement, including up to \$12,000 in educational support. Jeff added that some companies are beginning to develop their technical training programs, as community colleges are struggling to keep pace with the rapidly growing industry demand.

Jason discussed the importance of AC knowledge during student interviews.

ACTION ITEMS

Mike shared that this is the last meeting as the committee chair. At the upcoming fall meeting, the committee will need to elect a new committee chair.

The meeting adjourned at 12:41 PM

Prepared by Elizabeth Flores