

Diesel
Advisory Committee Meeting
November 4th, 2025



Diesel -MINUTES
November 4th, 2025, at 12:00 PM
AA5 Room 203

Members Present: Dan Zenger (Committee Chair), Fleet Manager, City of Vancouver; Jason Graves (Vice-Chair), Supervisor Fleet Maint, FedEx Freight; Michelle Dilwith Lacenda, Sr Talent Acquisition Specialist, FedEx Freight; Jody Mannor, Service Manager, Modern Machinery; Jake Mahan, Fleet Acquisition Analyst, City of Vancouver

Guests:

Members Absent: Mike Taylor, Instructor, Cascadia Technical Academy; Andy Turlo, District Manager, TForce Freight; Colby Botts, General Manager, EquipmentShare; Sami Andrews, Recruiter and College Relations Specialist

Clark College: Jeff Rush, Diesel Department Chair, Clark College; Theo Koupelis, Dean of WPTE & STEM; Elizabeth Flores, Advisory Coordinator, Clark College; Wende Fisher, Academic Advisor, Clark College

The meeting began at 12:03 PM, and a quorum was met.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The committee will meet next on February 10th, 2026.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the previous meeting on April 29th, 2025, were approved.

COLLEGE UPDATES

Jeff presented the program's proposed curriculum changes and explained that the current curriculum is outdated. He noted that the program does not sufficiently cover electrical systems or electronic equipment diagnostics, which limits student preparedness for industry expectations.

Jeff reviewed the revised course sequencing and shared that the program is shifting its focus toward employability, recruitment, and outreach.

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Jeff explained changes to the number of classes and credit structure. The program will move from 6 lecture courses and 6 labs, plus 3 afternoon lecture labs, to 14 integrated lecture-lab courses. The program length will increase from 6 terms to 7 terms, with total credits increasing from 122 to 125.

Jeff discussed strengthening the program's safety culture, noting that the program will fully align with Clark College policies and procedures. He shared that the program will also align with ASE Education Foundation 2025 standards and has set a goal to meet MTST accreditation requirements within five years. During this transition, the program will step down to TST accreditation and work toward meeting MTST standards.

Jeff stated that the program may choose not to file for accreditation immediately and will ensure that tools and equipment align with Freightliner standards. The program aims to replenish tools and equipment to meet ASE and industry standards. He noted that a recent student injury highlighted the urgency of these updates.

Jeff shared that all classes will be structured as 14-credit lecture-lab courses, with the goal of maintaining lower individual course credit loads while operating under a cohort model. He noted that the program believes the cohort model will lead to greater student success.

Jeff reviewed proposed textbooks, explaining that students will purchase an electronic license granting access to all required textbooks.

Jeff discussed the need for expanded hydraulic education. He shared that the program currently partners with Portland Tractor to provide basic hydraulic instruction and plans to hire additional hydraulic trainers in the future.

Jody noted that hydraulic and electrical systems represent a significant portion of industry needs.

Jeff identified preventive maintenance as a major addition to the curriculum and shared that students will receive a preventive maintenance textbook upon graduation.

Jeff explained that ASE standards outline specific task requirements and that the program will align rigorously with these standards. He plans to revise task lists and collaborate with local industry partners to seek equipment support. He added that the college aims to ensure alignment with safety, compliance, and guided outreach efforts, and that he is working with the communications department to support social media outreach.

Jeff invited questions, comments, and concerns from the committee.

Michelle asked about enrollment timelines and expressed concern about a summer start date. She recommended advising students early about which courses they could take in the interim.

Jeff shared that while the program is intended for summer starts, he would prefer a fall start. He noted that students cannot begin the program at any time and that the program will need to hire an additional instructor, potentially in a tenure-track position.

Jason noted that the program proposal aligns with Cengage learning resources.

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Jeff shared that the program will use multiple learning management systems, including Electude.

Jason noted that interviewers often ask candidates which systems they are familiar with.

LAB FEES

Jeff discussed the proposed lab fee of \$110 per lecture-lab course, not per term. He explained that the fee increase reflects the increased rigor and future direction of the program and noted that relying on the operating budget is not sustainable.

Michelle asked whether the program had contacted the other two community colleges to compare fee structures.

Jeff shared that fees at the other colleges are higher and discussed differences in their program models. He added that student feedback indicates a desire for more in-class instruction, but without an increased budget, the program remains limited.

Jeff discussed the need for expanded anatomy education, running engines, mechanical troubleshooting, and electronics coursework. He noted the program's need for core engines and mechanical engines and welcomed donations.

Michelle referenced 28 Southwest Washington schools and asked where the program anticipates drawing students from.

Jeff discussed the need for additional AC machines and acknowledged that budget constraints will be challenging.

Jody noted that many students enter the program with very limited foundational knowledge.

Jeff shared that there is a growing industry push toward electric trucks and that he will monitor grant opportunities.

Dan asked for clarification regarding diagnostic tools.

Jeff responded by outlining the tools currently available, noting that body electronics software is lacking. He welcomed committee members to provide a Peterbilt contact and shared that he may sunset the 9460 series. He asked whether large mechanical tasks, such as pulling a transmission, require MTST or TST standards.

Jody responded that entry-level foundational knowledge is the most critical focus.

Jeff noted that a partnership with Eaton was previously put on hold, but Eaton has expressed interest in donating equipment and teaching a three-day class. He shared that the program would need a truck with a functional automated transmission.

Jeff stated that he has been tasked with completing the safety project prior to expanding recruiting efforts.

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VOTE

Jason motioned to approve the proposed new program curriculum.

Dan seconded the motion.

Outcome: The proposed new program curriculum was approved.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Dan volunteered to serve as committee chair for the 2025–26 academic year. It was noted that a new chair will need to be elected in Fall 2026.

Jake seconded the nomination.

Outcome: The nomination was unanimously approved.

ACTION ITEMS

- Jeff will work on recruiting additional committee members.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM

Prepared by Elizabeth Flores