



MECHATRONICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Tuesday, May 6, 2014
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Columbia Tech Center, Room 206

Members Present: Zeb Hallmark, Committee Chair, Linear Technology; Chris Taylor, Vice Chair, Daimler Trucks North America; John Smith, Lab-Volt Systems, Inc.; Carl Hagstrom, HAS; Jim Short for Silviu Spiridon, Linear Technology

Members Absent: Jeremy Neyens, HSA; Nirav Sheth, SEH America

Clark College: Chris Lewis, Department Head/Mechatronics Professor; Anne Koering, Instructor; John Maduta, Advising Divisional Mgr.; Andreana DiGiorgio, Advisory Committee Coordinator

Committee Chair Zeb Hallmark called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The minutes were reviewed and a motion was made to approve the October 22, 2013 minutes. The motion was seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Office of Instruction Updates

In Dedra Daehn's absence, John Maduta explained to the committee the requirement from the State regarding adjunct faculty. He said that faculty that are adjunct instructors cannot be voting members because of a potential conflict of interest. He said adjunct faculty input is still very important to the committees. They will be listed as "ex officio" members. John also told the committee that if there is a vendor member on the committee they are not allowed to vote as well.

Andreana DiGiorgio briefly went over the roster, letting the members know that there are six voting members and the employer/employee ratio is in compliance at exactly 50-50.

Director/Division Chair Report:

Mechatronics Instructor and Department Head, Chris Lewis, announced that the Industrial Maintenance Program has been approved. He said this program will start in summer 2014 with day and evening classes. He said this is great because it will fill the millwright needs of the community. Chris added that there is a lot of interest in the program and John Maduta said that there will be a lot of vocational rehabilitation enrollment.

Next, Chris reported that enrollment is good. They are ready to ramp up the evening classes and with both the Mechatronics and Industrial Maintenance programs, enrollment will only increase. He did say that Clark College is going to have major budget cuts and it will be a challenge to decide which courses to run.

Lastly, Chris told the committee about a new certification process being pushed by industry. He said the Certified Production Technician, or CPT, is a certification that the industry feels is important. He said five area colleges are piloting training courses that include safety, quality, production, and predictive maintenance. He said it's similar to what the automotive industry has in their ASEs, only for the manufacturing industry. Chris said there's a huge push by the current administration to come up with a set of standards that the nation can agree on, aimed at general safety concerns. Carl Hagstrom asked what will be covered in this certificate and Chris said there are 18 different safety modules. He said there will be 35 hours of training and the students will take exams, which they will have to pay for. These certificates will be good for five years, Chris said. He asked if this is something industry would be interested in and the consensus was every company has their own set of safety training standards that is specific to that particular company which includes OSHA, etc. However, Chris Taylor thought that it could only be an addition to potential employees and Carl said he hires lots of temps and if an employee came in with this kind of certificate it would be an asset.

Work Plan:

Zeb went thru the work plan with the committee item by item and it was updated accordingly. A copy of the 2014-15 work plan will be posted to the Mechatronics Advisory Website within the week by Andreana.

Old Business:

Chris Taylor asked how many graduates we have. Chris said there are 13 grads and they are all enrolled in the capstone project. He said this is the largest graduating class yet. Chris is pretty sure that the capstone projects will be presented June 12 and he said that he would love for the committee members to come and look at the projects and validate the students' work. He said he will have a "grading" sheet to give to industry members. Chris said this is important to the students as they get to greet, present their work, and talk to potential employers. Chris said the projects are a surprise so he didn't disclose what kinds of projects they are working on. He added they will not be disappointed. Chris will send out an invitation as soon as the details are firm.

New Business:

Chris said that because the Foundation is looking to make funding available to expand Clark College to north Clark County, he does not expect his Foundation request for new equipment will be approved.

Summary of Meeting:

Zeb summarized the meeting and thanked the members for coming.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Zeb adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.