

**SURVEYING & GEOMATICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MINUTES**

**Thursday May 4, 2017**

**12.00 – 2.00 p.m. \* Science Block 122**

**Members Present:** Ken Paul, (Committee Chair) P.L.S., Clark County Public Works; Paul Galli (Vice chair) P.L.S., Cowlitz County; Weston Dorszynski, P.L.S., City of Vancouver Survey Dept.; Mike Swanson, P.L.S., Western Federal Highway Administration; John Besancon, Clark Co. Surveyor’s Office; Chuck Whitten, Ret.; Jeff Lynch, P.L.S., City of Vancouver Survey Department; Cindy Halcumb, KC Development

**Members Absent:** Larry Goble, P.L.S. P.E., Federal Highway Administration;

**Guests:** Daniel Seyller, student in the program, K Halcumb, Surveyor

**Clark College:** Tim Kent, P.L.S., Surveying Program Coordinator/Professor; Tina Barsotti, Engineering Professor; Erielle Lamb, Adjunct; Peter Williams, Dean of STEM; Cathy Sherick, Assoc. Dir. Of Instructional Planning & Innovation; Nichola Farron, Secretary Senior – Advisory Committees

Committee chair Ken Paul called the meeting to order at noon and introductions were made.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

*The minutes of October 27 2016 were presented; Jeff made a motion to approve the minutes as written, this was seconded by Mike and all were in favor.*

Next Meeting Date

The committee will meet again on Thursday November 2 at Noon.

Office of Instruction Announcements.

Cathy Sherick made the following announcements:

Clark is completing the series of Business and Community Learning events on campus this spring. The quick and friendly ‘lunch and learn’ opportunities. FREE and open to the public, the workshops will be scheduled from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and held in the Gaiser Student Center, allowing people to attend on their lunch hour.

* Friday May 19th The Power of Completion

Join us here on campus Saturday June 3 10:00 a.m. registration opens for the FREE Healthy Penguin Walkabout. There are several stations set up across campus, with health activities and information about one quarter mile apart. A great way to get some exercise, some health information and have fun.

In keeping with the college campus theme, TRANSFORMATION work on the committee composition continues! We are seeking nontraditional members, those folks who are not typically associated with the field (like women in welding). Your assistance is appreciated, if you know of someone who might be interested in joining a committee, let us know.

 We are also going to be making a big push to engage students and Clark Alumnae in the work of the committees. Students will be able to earn a small stipend and a letter of recommendation for their attendance and participation. Piloted this year, have not had students waiting in line – but we want to have them be a regular and vital presence on every committee in the future.

July 13, 2017 – Evening event to recognize our committees and the terrific volunteers that come to meetings two times a year to support students. Watch for additional details to arrive via email.

Clark College will hold graduation at the Sunlight Supply Amphitheater on Thursday June 22 at 7:00 p.m. It is a great way to celebrate the work of the committees. There is always a need for volunteers at the event, if you are interested please let us know.

Dean Williams also spoke to the Committee about the continuing budgetary issues caused by low enrollment. There will likely be a budget deficit next year but the amount cannot be known. With the State Legislature delaying their final budget decision, the College does not have all the information it needs. As such, it makes it difficult to plan for things like Adjuncts. The college currently has 7300 FTEs (full time equivalents), but the head count is closer to 12000 including the Running Start students. Unfortunately, Running Start students are not included in the head count, and there have been a number of discussions about redressing that balance.

Tim also spoke about his efforts to connect with students who were one or two classes short of completion when they left the program. Cathy continued that there are economic benefits for both the student and local businesses associated with degree completion.

Business Plan Review

Tim detailed how the program had developed a three-year business plan in October. As they approach the end of Year 1, they have completed the relocation to become a stand-alone unit. He invited the committee to join an ‘Open House’ in SCI123 following the meeting to review the newly designated Surveying & Geomatics classroom. The full time coordinator position outlined has been put on hold.

Tim continued that the website remains an issue that needs attention as the Clark site has some usability issues. He had interviewed two potential students on the morning of the meeting who are currently enrolling: both are already in receipt of BA degrees and looking to specialize as surveyors. He will also be working on a commemorative gift for graduates of the program.

As such, the bulk of the Year 1 objectives have been achieved. For Year 2, there will be a focus on modernizing the classroom. The coordinator position will also be revisited, and there will be continued advertising on campus and in the community. While Tim recognized that the program would likely continue to be small, the need will be constant. Whilst the graduation rate is at 4.3, the figure needs to be at 7 and non-completion remains an issue.

Tim continued by outlining that outreach efforts are ongoing. However, he noted that Klamath Falls Community College was at the recent NW Youth Outreach conference at the Oregon Convention Center and this might be a good opportunity for Clark College to be involved as well.

He continues to connect with local High Schools, and will be at Hudson’s Bay to work with a math teacher to use the Surveying equipment and demonstrate trigonometry. Tina advised committee members that if they hear of an event that the program should participate in to aid outreach and advertising, to please pass on the details.

Weston spoke about the LSAW (Land surveyors Association of Washington) who sometimes have their chapter meetings hosted by local Colleges, which is a great way to make a connection. This could be a possibility for a future Advisory Committee meeting.

SURV225 Review

SURV255 is Subdivision Planning and Platting: Tim outlined that this was originally developed with a view to the articulation with Oregon Tech. However, there have only been six or seven students that have opted to go on for a four-year degree. As such, Tim asked the committee for feedback on whether the class was still relevant, especially as the degree was currently about six credits over the requirement. Another alternative would be the need to design a class that looks at technological advances and new equipment.

The committee discussed how the need for the platting class is dependent upon the size of a firm but would not necessarily be expected of new technicians. Daniel commented that, as a student, the computer skills associated have been the most valuable lessons.

Cindy commented that familiarity with the new technology in the industry was more valuable than the platting dimension. John commented that some of the skills in platting etc. can be learned on the job, but it is important to have an initial familiarity with the equipment. Chuck also noted that subdivision stems from being able to do the math procedures which form the basis of fieldwork and that a dedicated class was not necessarily required.

The committee further discussed how students are engaged with technology. Cindy also outlined that teaching the skills to know which tool or instrument to select for tasks is also very important.

It was agreed that tools such as drones etc. are a good way of sparking interest in potential students.

Action Item: Tim will bring a proposed class outline for the technology exploration to the next meeting

Enrollment update

Nine new students started after the fall term, but there has been some obstacles. Those who begin the course when they already have a BA and college experience are normally able to push through the work quicker. The graduate who walked in 2016 actually began the course in 2010 and that is representative of a number of students who take time to complete.

Tim also took the opportunity to thank the Committee member for hiring, temporarily or permanently, students from the program. As well as helping the students, this has also demonstrated the industry need.

Campus GIS

Tim shared that he is working with Tim Petta from facilities who has agreed to purchase the mapping grade needed to do the campus; one of the adjuncts and their students will be working on this. The lack of GIS impacts construction, as obstacles etc. have not been pre-located.

Scholarships

Tim outlined how he emphasizes to students the importance of applying for scholarships; the George Walker scholarship through LSAW is one example where Clark students take half the available money (4 of the 9 recipients). The PLSO scholarship is now available for application and due at the end of the month. There is a continuing issue of students not applying for scholarships because they do not believe they will be successful: the Department will continue to work to encourage students to prepare and submit applications.

Ken adjourned the meeting at 1.25pm

Prepared by Nichola Farron