



WELDING TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Wednesday, May 6, 2015 * 5:30 to 7:00 PM
AA2, Room 105

Members Present: Mark Stanley, Committee Chair, Columbia Machine; Randy Leonard, Farwest Steel; Nathan Marks, Mark Brothers, Inc.

Members Absent: Troy Brigham, PRO-TECH Industries; Keith Jackson, Roadmaster Towing & Suspension Solutions; Steve Worden, Committee Vice Chair, BPA; Bob Tafolla, BPA; Larry Stanks, BPA; Patrick Gonzales, Former Welding Instructor

Clark College: Caleb White, Welding Tech Department Head/Instructor; Ron Renner, Welding Instructor; Beth Heron, Welding Instructor; Brian McVay, Welding Instructor; Genevieve Howard, Dean of Workforce & Career Tech Ed; Cathy Sherick, Associate Dir. Of Instructional Planning & Innovation; John Maduta, Professional Technical Programs Director; Andreana DiGiorgio, Advisory Committee Coordinator

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Committee Chair Mark Stanley and new members Nathan Marks and Randy Leonard were introduced.

A quorum was not present so the November 5, 2014 meeting minutes will be sent out for an electronic vote.

Office of Instruction Updates

O.O.I. Associate Director Cathy Sherick made some announcements.

- **Advisory Breakfast March 18th** Speaker, Scott Bailey, Economist and Clark Faculty spoke about the regional economic outlook. Looking forward to Advisory Members joining us for the 2016 Advisory recognition event, during spring term. Cathy asked what people thought of the event, and if they might share any specific recommendations for next year? Overall this committee liked the event.
- **Upcoming Advisory Training** for advisory chairs and vice chairs on the Advisory Committees' responsibilities, processes and schedules. Slated for the week of September 14th, 2015, it will be on the Clark main campus. The inter-active event will be from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. and will include dinner. Are there any items that committee members would like to see included in the training?
- **Advisory web page** will be the primary location for all information regarding the committees. Office of Instruction will be posting articles of interest, economic studies and other information. Members are encouraged to send links and information of interest to post on the site too.
- **Clark College Strategic Plan 2015-2020** was adopted in March of 2015. The organizational management process was used to set priorities, focus energy and resources, strengthen operations and ensure that stakeholders are working toward common goals. The plan will be the over-arching document linking academic, enrollment, retention and other future plans for the college. Please visit the main Clark College web site to read the plan.
- **Clark College Academic Plan is in the works!** The academic plan process is under way at Clark with faculty and staff gathering ideas and building consensus. Under construction over the coming months it is anticipated to be adopted in the fall of 2015.
- **Videos.** The committee looked at a couple of videos made by Clark College; one promoting the Welding program, the other was promoting the Penguins Fly campaign starring employees from Columbia Machine.

- **North Campus Update.** Genevieve updated the committee on the property and plan for the North Campus located in Ridgefield, WA. She said the plan includes state funded buildings and will begin to be designed in 2016, break ground in 2017, and hopefully be complete by 2020. Eventually there will be two buildings but for now, trying to figure out the appropriate programs to move out there. Health care is one option; the other is an advanced manufacturing center. Currently the thinking is the latter and most likely at this time. Welding, Mechatronics, and Machining would move and possibly add Composites and Industrial Maintenance programs with more in-depth curriculum. Also would like to add some shared technology degrees. This leads into the Maker Center... This is a place where we will take equipment from different programs and use it to offer more specific courses through Corporate and Continuing Education. Mechatronics, Welding, and Machining will be more integrated at this new facility. We're looking at a grant for the center; not 100% yet on the location. We'll be submitting this grant in October 2015. Will put this on next agenda to provide an update and gather input from the committee members.

Director/Division Chair Report

Caleb began with the 5-year equipment plan. He passed out a prioritized list of equipment needs.

- **CNC Plasma.** Currently we have one but the issue is it's not for beginners. Would like to introduce an entry level CNC plasma table into the program for the students. Caleb said he's in the process of acquiring quotes now and would like to have this by the end of the year. Entry level CNC Plasma is about \$10K. He said he will probably have the money from doing some work with continuing education. Mark reminded Caleb to make sure that consumables is included in the quote.
- **Manual Press brake.** This would be an additional press brake and will help students work their way to the one we have now. It's a manual brake that will allow students to start with real basic stuff and work towards the bigger machine. Caleb said it will run about \$20K. Can handle a quarter inch by two feet. Genevieve asked about having a keyboard not attached to the machine so that students would feel better and more confident when they actually get on the machine. Caleb said he will look into it.
- **Power Roll.** Caleb said he wants to round out the bending and forming. The Bailey he looked at can do a quarter inch thick by four feet wide. With this they can add math to this process. The machine is relatively small and is about \$25K. They make cheaper ones but you're limited on the thickness of materials.
- **Lathe for prepping pipe and lab projects.** Would like a tabletop mill for drilling, tubing and pipe.
- **Cold cut saw.** He'd like to be able to do tubing. Already have a nice hydraulic band saw but this would allow students to learn another way of cutting. It's about \$6500. Good place to start.
- **CNC Plasma Table with Oxy/Fuel Torch.** Students would have to show proficiency before learning or using this. Caleb wants to be able to run heavy steel plates.

Caleb asked if the committee if there's anything missing from the list and asked them to let him know if they think of anything else. Genevieve told the members that this list is really important because occasionally money becomes available and if there's an equipment list ready to go, she can act quickly on purchases.

Caleb is looking for new instructor(s). He said he's got a great group now, just looking to add to it. Prefer someone with experience with the CNC Plasma and Pressbrake knowledge. If anyone knows of someone let Caleb know.

What's new/shop improvements.

- Caleb reported more cutting stations have been built. Saved a lot of money by building them here. Now the stations are safer with a drawer to catch the hot metal and there's better ventilation. He will build more stations as money is available. Shop has been reorganized, safer in the event of an emergency with more yellow tape, etc. Goal is to mimic a lean manufacturing area. Ron brought up that we have no overhead crane. The program doesn't currently teach rigging techniques. Nathan brought up that industry would like to see more people with knowledge of proper rigging techniques. He said it's

important for the younger students going into industry. Rigging is a very dangerous prospect. Mark Stanley suggested a two- to three-ton Gorbelt crane. It's smaller and modular. Can go north and south or all four directions.

- Instructor Brian McVey said he took his Certified Welding Inspector (CWI) exam and passed. This will open a lot of doors for the program. He and Caleb want this facility to become a W.A.B.O. (Washington Association of Building Officials) certified testing facility. There is a process for being approved. You have to have a CWI (Brian), take WABO's test and then they come in and do an inspection of the facility. Once established, Clark will be able to offer this testing not only to Clark students but also to industry. Can be a money maker.

Old Business

- Mark remarked that Larry Stanks was asking about getting something created to hand out to potential committee members. Cathy said she's got a pamphlet brewing and will have it printed soon. We will be handing them out at the fall meetings. Maybe a link on the Welding page?
- The committee talked about how the industry works together with each other. Want the students to do more field trips to the local facilities. Nathan said Marks Brothers has a 331,000 square foot shop with 20 tons of material on the floor at any given time and welcomes the students to visit them.
- Mark brought in some H.R. information from Columbia Machine and spoke about the hiring process including self-assessments, interview questions and performance evaluations, which are done yearly. Brian said he just had a resume building class for students and these docs are very helpful.
- Mark will be visiting students next week to talk about how to get in to Columbia Machine, what they have to offer, what they want in an employee, etc.
- Press brake shadowing. Caleb and Steve Worden were trying to get together for some discussion on job shadowing. Still trying to put this together. Randy Leonard said he could help with this.
- Students will be visiting Columbia Machine. Mark asked that Caleb include Kelly Foyt, Columbia's H.R. manager. Would have to sign some docs and she would provide them to Caleb prior to a visit.

Next Meeting Date

It was agreed that the next meeting will be Wednesday, October 28, 2015 at 5:30 pm.

Bill Dykstra asked how we recruit from the high schools. Brian said he and Caleb have been trying to talk to some local high schools. Caleb said it would be great to capture the kids before they go directly to industry. Most are short on skill sets.

Mark adjourned the meeting at 6:40 pm.