

**WELDING TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MINUTES**

**Wednesday, May 13th, 2020 \* Noon to 1:30 P.M.**

**Zoom Online (Audio/Video)**

**Members Present:** Kale Park, Columbia Steel Services (Vice Chair); Sonny Curtis, Ironworkers Local #29; Zane Michael, Motoman Robotics; David Patterson, Mt View HS; Jason Petersen, Vigor Industrial PDX; Mark Stanley, Columbia Machine; Seth Thompson, SW WA Pipe Trades;

**Members Absent:** Bill Dykstra (Committee Chair), Praxair; James Duncan, Frontier Metal Fabrications, Inc.; Laramie Lexow, Shopman Ironworkers Local 516; Nathan Marks, Mark Brothers, Inc.; Paul Sibley, 360 Sheet Metal; Gary Stone, Stone Consulting Services; Michael Williams, Samson Sports

**Guests:** Toby Malcom, Vigor Vancouver;

**Clark College:** Caleb White, Department Head; Wade Hausinger, Brian McVay, Welding Instructor; Bruce Elgort, CTEC/Web Development Instructor; Dwight Hughes, NTEC Instructor; Pat Sevier, Machining Instructor; Armetta, Interim Dean or Workforce & CTE; Wende Fisher, Advising; SueAnn McWatters, Program Specialist

Committee Vice Chair Kale Park called the meeting to order at 12:04pm and introductions were made.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

*The minutes of November 6th, 2019 were presented: Kale Park made a motion for approval, Seth Thompson seconded and was unanimously approved.*

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

The committee will next meet on **Wednesday, December 9th, 2020 at Noon.**

**OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Armetta Burney made the following announcements:

The college is in a pretty significant budget deficit of $5.4 million. We are going through a budget process to figure out what we are going to do as a result to close that gap. There are impacts from executive cabinet level down to classified staff. An Associate Vice President and Vice President position will be eliminated. One of the most significant impacts to WPTE is the elimination of the STEM dean position. This will mean that the departments will need to roll into other areas. The unit will most likely become larger, however there has been no announcement about how that will look.

**JOB SKILL GRANT & PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

Armetta Burney explained that Caleb White, Brian McVay and Wade Hausinger have all been working to meet a need that Vigor has for offering pipe welding training. The goal was to start delivering the training in fall of 2020, however COVID occurred and that has now been delayed. However, a job skills grant is administered through the state board, which would significantly reduce the cost of that training. She was hopeful to be able to apply for that grant in order to move the partnership with Vigo forward. Unfortunately, the grant specifies that the training has to be delivered in Washington state as well as the employees must be paid while participating in the training. For these reasons, we are not able to move forward. There may be another opportunity to offer an aluminum and welding fabrication training.

Toby Malcom from Vigor Vancouver stated that they are interested in those graduating students that can pass the 3G/4G aluminum weld test, however they are also interested in students that can work multiple different metals. If there is an interest in students wanting to work and also continue their education through Clark, Vigor would need to know what kind of commitment it would be, the cost (donation, time, money, etc.), and also the payback.

**WELDNG DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

*COVID-19 Adjustments & Lab Schedule*

Caleb White spoke on classes being fully online. The department has adapted pretty well. They had previously been doing some hybrid courses before as John Kuhn and Brian McVay had done very good work prepping for that. Labs are still on a hiatus, but are projected to start back up by the end of June. They are giving the students as much as content online through Canvas and live lectures. Most of the instructors are doing live lecturing two days a week and then doing zoom meetings with students the other two days. There are a lot of layout projects on metal, but is now on paper. Blueprints have been shifted onto simple office supplies. They are able to add a bit more theory content in order to make the students a bit more rounded.

Armetta Burney thanked the faculty and staff for the work they put in to pivot so quickly to move the courses online.

Brian McVay discussed hearing the WWIA (Washington Welders Instructors Association) started a forum where many other colleges announced that they had already opened back up with face to face courses.

Caleb White addressed what it would look like coming back into labs:

* Social distancing (6ft.)
* Masks
* Limit to only 16 students and 3 staff
* Using every other weld booth
* Some doors will be designated as “entrances only” or “exits only”
* Staggering of classes so that there is an hour in between when one class starts and ends
* No more student locker area
* Materials will be prepped beforehand so that when students enter, they go straight to their weld booth

Armetta Burney explained how the college made the decision to keep remote learning through spring even if the state did allow back face to face learning. The committee spoke on the PDF that was released by the governor that included the Phase 1 Higher Education Workforce Training Restart Requirements. The college is also coming up with some additional guidelines. Seth Thompson spoke on the potential of having a “social distancing” supervisor to make sure the practices are being followed correctly.

*Welding Grant/Robotic Weld Cell Update*

Caleb White and Brian McVay have made great progress, however due to the recent events, it’s been put on pause. The good news is that the robotic weld cell is in the lab. The machine is equipped with a tool changer to do welding or any other cross training. It will be great for outreach. There are also clear panels on three sides so we can get more viewing while it’s in operation. The versatility of this machine is very exciting. Both Caleb and Brian took a two week training course on the usage of the robot, and will continue to take more training once places start opening up again.

*Welding Tenure Track Job Posting*

Caleb White announced that there is a welding tenure track job posting up at ww.clark.edu under careers. If anyone is interested, please apply. The posting closes on May 20th. They will also post on AWS and fabricator.com. The position would start in September of 2020. It is also a full time position.

*Advanced Manufacturing – Robotic Machining*

Obviously, things have been put on postpone. Caleb White spoke on a robot doing the actual machining. He opened up a discussion on what the industry is seeing in robotic machining.

Zane Michaels stated that the robotic arms come in all shapes and sizes, however they don’t employ them in the actual machining because of the forces fed back into the arm. There is a robotic platform called a hexapod (Boeing uses it). The parts move and are able to be mounted upside down as well as be used for actual machining.

The hope is to have more of the robotic arm cells, but that will depend on the budget that gets approved.

The construction on the Ridgefield site will hopefully get approved for funding in July of 2021. Then there will be an 18 month build schedule. With the Coronavirus, it will be interesting to see how it affects the timeline.

**ATC & WELD CERTIFICATION UPDATE**

Brian McVay discussed already being an ATF (Accredited Testing Facility), but now with the robot, we are working on becoming an Accredited Testing Center. As soon as we are able to get back into the classroom, this will be a main priority.

**MACHINING DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

*COVID-19 Adjustments & Lab Schedule*

Pat Sevier spoke on teaching software and theory courses, but no CNCs because of no hands on. Everything has been online.

*Teachout Update*

Pat Sevier stated that the first year of teachout will be finished by the end of this quarter. Machining will be finished by next June. There are currently about 18 students in the program.

**INDUSTRY UPDATES**

Kale Park mentioned that finding people in their field is difficult due to the virus.

Brian McVay stated that there has been an extreme CO2 shortage because the ethanol/petroleum plants so aren’t running as much. It has been a mad scramble to get people back to work.

Seth Thompson explained that they are not accepting any applications until they are able to go back to face to face. Apprenticeships have been ruled as non-essential. The waiting list is still very strong. As far as industry goes, those who want to work, are working.

Toby Malcom stated that they are hiring. He is currently giving 2-8 tests per day for the pre-employment weld test. They are running on a closed campus. Anyone inside the facility does have to social distance, wear a mask, and do temperature checks. He would be happy to provide information on how to provide a test and what it would take. Brian and Caleb would love to come and tour the facility.

Jason Peterson spoke on losing several contracts because of the virus. They are running at a lot lower capacity. They are open for contacts, however because of the virus, they are losing ships from coming in.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:19pm.

Prepared by SueAnn McWatters