

**WELDING TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**Wednesday, November 30th 2016 \* 5:30 to 7:00 PM**

**AA2, Room 105**

**Members Present:** Mark Stanley, Committee Chair, Columbia Machine; Patrick Gonzales, Former Welding Instructor; Gary Stone, NDE Professionals; Paul Sibley, Mohawk Metal

**Members Absent:** Steve Worden, Committee Vice Chair, BPA; Bob Tafolla, BPA; Larry Stanks, BPA; Randy Leonard, Farwest Steel; Nathan Marks, Mark Brothers, Inc.;

Guests: Michael Ellis and Jason Petersen, Vigor Metal; Kale Park, Student (and project manager for Mohawk Metal); David Patterson, Student; Ron Renner, retired welding instructor

**Clark College:** Brian McVay, Welding Instructor; John Kuhn, welding Instructor; Cathy Sherick, Associate Dir. Of Instructional Planning & Innovation; John Maduta, Prof-Tech Advising Mgr.; Nichola Farron, Secretary Sr. -Advisory Committees

Committee Chair Mark Stanley called the meeting to order at 5.32pm and introductions were made, including several new committee members and students attending. Brian apologized for Caleb’s absence due to sickness and indicated he would lead the Department aspect of the meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of April 27th 2016 were presented.

*Mark made a motion to approve the minutes as written, this was seconded by Gary and passed unanimously.*

Next Meeting date

The committee will next meet on Wednesday May 17th 2017 at 5.30pm

Office of Instruction updates:

Cathy Sherick made the following announcements:

The theme “Transformation” is being used to describe two large intersecting initiatives. One is the Academic Plan, which will guide Clark’s programs and student services over the next five years. The first goal of the plan is to implement Guided Pathways, the second large initiative.

All Washington State community colleges will implement Guided Pathways. This is aligning schedules and building program *pathways* that have clearer more defined structures, saving students time and money getting to graduation. Training for advisory members on Guided Pathways will be on March 24.

Specific *transformations* that advisory members will see this year include a *r*edesign of the meeting agenda format. This provides faculty and committees with a connection to the academic plan and will streamline the meeting while including committee work plan activities. The committee composition will now include students and Clark Alumnae. Students will be able to earn a small stipend and a letter of recommendation for their attendance and participation. Piloted this year, we hope that students will be a regular and vital presence on every committee in the future.

Transforming the role of committee members, from just meeting attendees to being a part of our learning community. Not just trainings, the series of Business and Community Learning events on campus are set up to be 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. Food is available in the carts on campus, and guests are welcome to bring their brown bag. Additional information to follow in emails.

* Friday December 9th Advocacy
* Friday February 24th Millennials in the Workforce
* Friday March 24th Pathways
* Friday May 19th The Power of Completion

An evening event will be planned in the Spring to thank our advisory committee members for their time and expertise. Look for information during winter term.

A complete computer systems upgrade to campus registration, human resources and finance systems. The ‘go-live’ date for will be January 30. It will not impact the advisory committees, but it will impact campus business so there will be a moratorium on advisory meetings from mid-January to mid-February.

The new Bachelor of Applied Science in Applied Management (BASAM) is accepting students beginning winter term 2017. For additional information go to: <http://www.clark.edu/academics/programs/bus/basam/index.php>

Advanced Manufacturing

Cathy spoke about the ongoing College conversations regarding the development of a new campus in North County. It is hoped that an Advanced Manufacturing center will be built, with Welding a key focus. Other programs making up the group would be Machining, CADD and Mechatronics. The conversation is still in the early stages, and further discussion will be held regarding use and design of space, curriculum, cross-disciplinary projects etc.

It is envisioned that the first-year set of courses will remain on the main campus with second year focusses at the new site; but this is all very much in early conversational stages with no concrete decisions at this point, especially in view of the fact that the state funding for design and construction needs to be confirmed. There are also early discussions about potential partnerships with Ridgefield schools.

Brian then spoke to the developments in the field that could potentially be reflected in the new campus. The FABTECH convention he attended with Caleb illustrated the advancements in the field, especially with regard to CNC platforms where innovative technologies were on display. He stressed the department’s commitment to ensuring that students need only minimal support when transitioning to workplace equipment after graduation.

Equipment Discussion

Following on from the discussion, Brian spoke more about the advances on display at FABTECH. The primary goal is to obtain a new plasma table. If HD equipment is purchased, then there will not be the same limitations on material thickness. Caleb and Brian narrowed down the options to 2 examples from Messer and Rhino. Rhino had an impressive product but is manufactured in Canada which may be an issue.

The Rhino machine is priced at $96250 but would also allow for the disposal of the water table. Brian highlighted how the current table is in its last cycles of use, and students cannot use it without an instructor present. There have been issues finding support, and as such software has not been updated.

Brian asked the committee if they had any experience with the customer support in terms of the Rhino and Messer brands as this has been such an issue with the current table. The committee talked about the potential for retrofitting software, but Brian reiterated there had been no success with this. The machinery highlighted also had a positioner to facilitate piping.

Brian indicated that the department is also seeking quotes for other machines. He reiterated that the speed of technological advances in the field is astonishing in terms of equipment development. This led some committee members to express concern that new equipment could become obsolete in a few years. In response to a question as to why laser is not used, Brian explained that this decision is related to costs associated with gas usage etc.

Brian reiterated that CNC is the direction increasingly favored: higher paying jobs in the field will be programmer operators, so there is a desire to structure program content more in that direction.

Curriculum

Brian outlined some additions that are being integrated into the curriculum for the next quarter including precision alignment tools, lasers and laser safety, and also error calculation and removal.

He will be introducing the theodolite total station and ‘dumpy’ level to expose students to calculations etc. He continued that the hope is to expose students to more areas of industry so that have a broader skill set.

Brian also introduced the committee to a new team project that requires students to work off grid lines and to bring up to elevation with builders’ level. Working in a team, students will then install as per the provided drawing with a time limit of roughly an hour. They are required to figure out measurements and also overcome obstacles for offsets. The purpose is to encourage students to think critically, make the correct tool selection etc.

The committee then discussed which skills are important for graduates entering the workplace. Kale stressed the importance of problem solving. Mark outlined that most problems result from instructions etc. missing on prints, which results in employees making math errors and having to seek out the foreman for clarification. Michael and Jason stressed the need for finesse in processes, and also for students to have more confidence in the various automation processes (e.g. welding vertical, running track burners etc.).

Paul outlined that, at his company, math ability remains a key issue, with a test being included at the interview stage.

The committee discussed how students need to be aware of time constraints and the need for productivity, as well as a demonstrably good work ethic.

Election of Officers

*Paul volunteered to serve as Committee Chair, this was formally nominated by Patrick, seconded by Jason and passed unanimously.*

*Paul made a motion for Mark to serve as Vice Chair, this was seconded by Jason and unanimously approved.*

Patrick thanked Mark for his service as committee chair, and also for the continued support from Columbia.

The meeting adjourned at 6.56pm.

Prepared by Nichola Farron