

**WELDING TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**Thursday, May 18, 2017 \* 5:30 to 7:00 PM**

**AA2, Room 105**

**Members Present:** Larry Stanks, Retired; Gary Stone, Stone Consulting Services; Michael Ellis, Vigor Fab, Jason Petersen, Vigor Fab

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

**Guests:** David Patterson, Student

**Clark College:** Caleb White, Department Head; Brian McVay, Welding Instructor; Patrick Gonzales, Adjunct; Genevieve Howard, Dean of WPTE; Scott Clemans, Career Services; Nichola Farron, Secretary Sr. -Advisory Committees

As the committee chair and vice chair were unable to attend, member Larry Stanks called the meeting to order at 5.34pm and introductions were made.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

As a quorum was not present for the vote, the minutes of November 30 2016 will be submitted for electronic vote. *As of July 10 2017, the minutes have been approved.*

Date of Next Meeting

The Committee will next meet on Wednesday October 4 2017 at 5.30pm.

Office of Instruction Announcements

Nichola 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.

Advanced Manufacturing

Dean Howard provided the committee with an update on the proposed advanced manufacturing project and facility that is being explored as a potential focus for the new Boschma Farms North Campus site. The first building on the new site will be devoted to advanced manufacturing with the potential for cross-disciplinary collaboration and projects between welding, machining, mechatronics, CADD and potentially industrial maintenance. This will allow for an integration of skills such as project management, overseeing automated processes etc.

Dean Howard continued that areas such as robotic welding, robotic CNC, AI, and composites are also being looked at as potential areas to integrate. The College will look to generate more community feedback once there has been greater confirmation of funding levels from the state legislature.

The committee dicussed how the idea is that the advanced manufacturing center will see students create an actual product from concept to production that could then be sold. For example, one idea is a home brewing kit that would link through the culinary department and perhaps utilize hops that could be grown on the site.

Funding for the north campus development - dependent upon legislature approval - would cover 2 years of planning and architectural investigation if received in this biennium. Another area under consideration would be a partnership with Ridgefield High School who would look to expand onto the site. This would strengthen the program pipelines by offering high school students the opportunity to acquire experience and credits in programs and then transfer into Clark.

Dean Howard noted that, following the successful renovation and relaunch of the culinary programs, Advanced Manufacturing is the main priority for the College.

Equipment Funding

Dean Howard noted that the professional-technical unit has been very fortunate in the support and funding received from the Clark College Foundation. However, a portion of the capital that used to be used for equipment was directed to support the Boschma Farms purchase. This directly affected equipment funds: this remains an ongoing discussion as the professional technical unit in particular is costly to maintain, as are the health programs. Welding is currently the number one priority for equipment funding to support the purchase of a $96k CNC plasma. If funds become available, they are marked for this machine, as the program needs modern equipment to remain relevant.

Caleb continued that the CNC plasma purchase is the most essential because it supports sixteen of the courses in the programs and if the current model breaks down due to its age and wear then the curriculum cannot be delivered. Whilst the Department does have a maintenance schedule, there is recognition that the age and consistent use of equipment will likely result in a wave of items breaking down.

Brian also noted that it is important that the department maintain a diversified range of equipment so that students can have a range of experience.

Department Updates

Caleb noted that the project for building an aluminum skiff is currently in the middle of its second run. Both he and Brian are running the 200 level classes for developing it. There is also the pressure vessel in construction: this time the decision was made to build it in two sections. It will be hydro tested and the instructors will continue to critique to give the students good competency levels and skills.

The department has built three more oxy fuel cutting stations to support WELD102 to try and combat the ‘bottleneck’ of three cutting stations and three bevellers supporting sixteen students.

3 year equipment plan

The equipment purchase list was displayed for the committee.

Caleb reiterated the importance of purchasing the new plasma, as he cannot be in a position where the current machine fails. In terms of curriculum development, Caleb noted that he would like to incorporate more pipe and tube bending as well as more sub-arc skills.

As such, whilst the CNC plasma is the top priority, the list of desired items also includes a welding positioner and also potential metamation software, and press brake tooling as well as a manual lathe.

Committee priorities

Caleb spoke about the work plan for the committee: members agreed it was important to continue to recruit members for the group as well as promoting the welding program, and publicizing the WEBO facilities offered by the Department.

New Business

AWS Testing - Caleb shared that the department has received funding to become an AWS testing facility, which is a huge achievement; as such, they are currently working on QA/QC procedures. Skagit Valley College is a Center of Excellence for marine, and has received a grant to support Community Colleges in WA to affect positively the number of certified welders in the State. As such, Clark will be one of three colleges with the AWS certification option, with no Colleges in OR.

High School Articulation – Brian and Caleb have been working with local high schools on potential articulation agreements. In addition, they serve on the Fort Vancouver advisory committee. This will link with the wider ‘College in the High School’ initiative where high school students can earn credits that count towards graduation and be included on their transcript.

Genevieve noted that one of the struggles is that schools lack the equipment to deliver the curriculum and competencies of the course. However, related areas of instruction such as trade math and professional-technical writing can be undertaken.

Mock Interviews - Caleb commented that there are 23 students graduating in mid-June and the Department is prepping them to go out into industry with cover letters and resumes. If committee members are willing and open to giving mock interviews, Caleb asked that they connect with him to arrange.

This links to knowing what makes a successful candidate so that the Department can help students prepare and give them some exposure to interview techniques.

The meeting adjourned at 6.40pm

Prepared by Nichola Farron