



**WELD -MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, May 29th, 2024, at 5:00 PM.**  
**AA2 Room 105**

**Members Present:** Kale Park, Michael Ellis, Mark Stanley, Jarrod Wickum, Connor Lenhart, Phil Braafladt

**Members Absent:** Sonny Curtis, Tyler Faye, Justin Bafus, Dale Lindsay, Eric Teel, Jason Petersen

**Clark College:** Brian McVay, Theo Koupelis, Elizabeth Flores, Wende Fisher, Joseph Giles, Gloria Rvdzinski, Justin Stokes, Chad Laughlin, Wade Hausinger, Paul Sibley

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The meeting began at 5:03 PM.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

The committee will next on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes from November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, were approved.

**COLLEGE UPDATES**

Theo discussed that the College had conducted interviews for the Vice President of Instruction. Theo shared that the College seeks a permanent position for the Dean of Social Science and Fine Arts.

Theo shared that the College expects an increase in enrollment this fall, 2024.

**WEEKEND COHORT**

Brian announced that a weekend cohort will take place on Friday, Saturday, and part of Sunday. The program will carefully monitor this timeslot to ensure that it remains full.

**ADVANCED MANUFACTURING**

Brian discussed the College is progressing in the Advanced Manufacturing Program with the support of other Clark College faculty.

Brian discussed the downsize of the AMC building. The program has undergone some slight restructuring and now includes Robotics Machining and Welding. In collaboration with Airgas, the program has designed everything to be modular and made some slight design changes.

Brian discussed that the College is in the process of hiring a Department Lead to oversee the program and anticipates opening the first cohort during the winter of 2025.

Justin will share the one-pager of Boschma Farms with the committee over email.

Brian welcomed industry members to tour the new AMC building at Boschma Farms.

Brian discussed the various new machinery and equipment in the Advanced Manufacturing Program.

Theo welcomed industry feedback on curriculum suggestions and welcomed industry members to share the Advanced Manufacturing Department Lead position.

Brian will share the job announcement and the curriculum with the committee.

## **DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

Brian discussed robotics. The college hopes to become an accredited testing center.

Connor mentioned the accessibility of Cobot basic-level training for students.

Brian discussed that the College is developing a robotics program in partnership with Airgas.

Michael asked about overhead cranes. Brian explained that the program could not purchase certain equipment due to budget constraints but expressed interest in partnering with the Foundation for future purchases.

## **DEPARTMENT HIRING POSITIONS**

Brian announced that the program had hired Gloria Rudzinski for the Instructional Tech position.

Brian announced the program is seeking weekend adjunct faculty due to program expansion and the need for a permanent tech.

Brian shared that Theo has been instrumental in securing a tenure-track position that ends on June 6, 2024. The program plans to hire for tenure-track and weekend adjunct positions.

Brian presented photos of the grinding room, updates, and potential changes needed to address safety hazards.

## **OUTREACH & EVENTS**

Brian shared the progress on the program's high school outreach.

Chad and Wade announced an upcoming instructor training in the fall. There are some challenges in coordinating with other schools. Therefore, the program began using the articulations.

Wade mentioned that 100 students took part in the events.

Brian noted that 60-70 people attended the Welding open house, and many were interested in the weekend courses.

Brian discussed AISC outreach to the program and shared details about the upcoming Host Steel Days. The high school and college-level competitions will be separate.

Brian discussed the program's growth and recipient of Career Launch Funding. The program will need to continue increasing the number of full-time equivalent students, and if next year's cohort fills up, the program can capture the funding full-time.

Brian discussed the Career Launch Funding 5-year probationary period and requirements.

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Wade mentioned that there are 26 graduates, and the program aims to connect them with potential employers.

Mark stated that job placement is a great way to go.

Brian observed that field trips, job boards, and networking partnerships are part of the program's objectives.

The program currently does not have any open recruiting positions available, but the yearly open house is crucial for recruitment purposes.

### **ACTION ITEM**

The committee will review the bylaws.

The committee will review the work plan.

The meeting adjourned at 6:26 PM.

Prepared by Elizabeth Flores