



**Welding -MINUTES**  
**November 6, 2024, at 5:00 PM**  
**AA2 Room 105**

**Members Present:** Kale Park (Committee Chair), Estimator; Mark Stanley (Vice-Chair), Columbia Machine; Michael Ellis, Eric Teel, Purchasing Agent; Jason Petersen, Welder/Fitter; Justin Bafus, Program Manager; Tyler Fay, Program Manager

**Guests:** Michael Ellis, Vigor

**Members Absent:** Dale Lindsay, Branch Manager; Connor Lenhart, Welding Process Specialist

**Labor Representative:**

**Clark College:** Theo Koupelis, Dean of WPTE & STEM; Wade Hausinger, Instructor; Chad Laughlin, Instructor; Elizabeth Flores, Advisory Coordinator; Alex Kison, Career Services; Joseph Giles, Instructor; Wende Fisher, Advising

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The meeting began at 5:00 PM

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

The committee will meet next on Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes from the previous meeting on May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, were approved.

**ETHICS TRAINING**

Elizabeth conducted the Advisory Committee Ethics Training.

**ORIENTATION TRAINING**

Elizabeth conducted the Advisory Orientation Training.

**COLLEGE UPDATES**

Theo announced that the College welcomed Dr. Terry Brown as the new Vice President of Instruction.

Theo shared that the College has reached its enrollment goals.

Wade shared that the Welding program has gained twenty more students.

Theo shared that Brian has been an integral part of the development of the Advanced Manufacturing program. The College is still searching for the program's faculty lead and adjunct faculty to onboard. Kale asked if the Welding program would relocate to Boschma Farms.

Theo noted that originally the Welding program was going to be moved but at this time the program will not relocate.

## **DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

Wade announced that Chad Laughlin is the new tenured track faculty and Gloria Rudzinski is the new weekend instructor. Gloria currently has seven students.

Wade shared that there are job postings available for a part-time instructor and part-time classroom and laboratory tech.

### **Enrollment**

Wade shared that the fall enrollment has grown in comparison to last year, currently, there are seventy-three students. The program has grown by twenty students and the benefits of hosting open houses, attending auto shows and outreach events have been beneficial for the growth of the program.

### **Welding Competition**

Wade showcased the success and skill levels of the recent Pacific Northwest Steel Fabrication Association Welding competition with local high school students.

### **Facilities and Equipment**

The program received Perkins funding, and they have been able to update equipment and facilities.

The program's budget will benefit as there will be a decrease in some cylinder cost.

The program is looking into purchasing a mobile fume extractor.

## **INDUSTRY FEEDBACK**

Kale asked if students could work as classroom techs.

Wade and Theo will explore some options, as the program could benefit from work-study students.

Alex shared that the basic needs hub has opened and is available for students' resources, such as food, housing, etc.

Kale inquired about the Cobot.

Chad discussed the challenges with the Cobot and that the program reached out to Airgas for assistance with the Cobot.

Jason noted that there is an increase in entry-level hiring for structural welders. Welders are needed on an upcoming project in February. The positions available would be full-time, day shift, and swing shift.

Eric noted that aluminum welders are in high demand. Eric recommended further education around aluminum in the program, such as specialty classes, and students could benefit from more time on aluminum education. Eric recommends more hood time for students.

Welding  
Advisory Committee Meeting  
November 6, 2024

Eric offered to donate scrap metal to the students for projects and development.  
Chad noted there is a need for pipe fitters.

The meeting adjourned at 6:07 PM

Prepared by Elizabeth Flores