

Engineering Technology Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2019 7:00am-7:55am
EPI Tech Campus, Collaborative lab Water
Chairperson: Mike Brewster, Monin, Inc.

In attendance: Matthew Smith, Susan Biszewski-Eber, Lara Sharp, Joseph Benavides, Karen Sommerville, Lori Craig, Heather Disler, Mike Smith, Michelle Hintz-Prange, Fred Tucker Natavia Middleton, Joann Wright, Robert Nead, Beth Galic, Richard Smith, Andres Cardenas

Not in attendance: Mike Brewster, Peter Buczynsky, , Tim Nemes, Susan Garrett, Scott Talcott, Brian Bell, David Reese, Dean Rock, Donald Houdek, Eric LeTourneur, Greg Lewis, Greg Seay, Marcos Cabrera, Steve Askew, Dennis Daniels, Rodney Rohrs, Nancy Crews, Melissa Lostraglio, Pam Temko, Diane Hufford, Andy Malcolm, Jim Gilmour, Bob Castro, Brenda Skinner, Kozitte Kaun, Stefanie Bischoff, Francois DeForges, Grace Smoker, Joe Moretti, Marta Przyborowski, Lannette Reeves, Louis Grilli, Lisa Maciolek, Edwin Homan, Ron Varghese, Steve Heppler, Jerry Custin, Diane Spaulding, Ken Conforti

7:00am--Introductions

Apprenticeship Update—Susan Biszewski-Eber

Susan gave an update and talked about the articulation of apprenticeships to the credit program. Current efforts in Pinellas County include The People of Manufacturing which is developing a partnership with PERC. Two companies in Pinellas that are looking to adopt the apprenticeship model are Base Culture and Hydromassage.

METT Grant Update—Lara Sharp and Lori Craig

Lara and Lori provided an update on the METT grant. The New Advanced Manufacturing Lab Unveiling on January 16, 2019 was a success. The program was featured on Bay News 9. The next board meeting will be held at Clearwater so that the members can see the new lab. Much of the equipment was purchased through the grant. These classes are flexible quick response trainings that can be articulated into the academic program. The content is open entry, open exit, which means students can start training sessions at any time and finish the material at their own pace. The content for the training sessions will be online and the lab work will be done in the engineering technology lab on SPC's Clearwater Campus. The lab will be staffed so that students can sign up to use the equipment and finish the lab work. Students can take an industry certification when they complete. The grant is currently training 160 students. Machining and metal forming is being taught at Pinellas Technical College.

The METT Robotics training will be ready around April 1, 2019.

Contact Lori Craig, craig.lori@spcollege.edu, for information on how to sign up for the program.

Electronics Review—Lara Sharp

The electronics learning objectives need to be reviewed. Lara explained that it is important to review the curriculum every few years to make sure it is relevant. The role of the Advisory Committee is to provide input.

Electronics is a sub plan of the Engineering Technology and is 24 credit hours. It includes Digital fundamentals, which is a good precursor to PLC. AC and DC is currently being taught separately, but in fall 2019, these two areas will be integrated into one class called AC/DC Circuits. Also included in the curriculum are courses on solid state electronics, linear circuits, and instrumentation that teaches students how to use all of the testing equipment they will use in the other classes. An internship is required for graduation.

The revamp will occur in the fall. Because of the way the classes are taught, students were challenged with graduating in two years. Also, employers and instructors have concluded the courses could be more streamlined and offer students the opportunity to take an elective which would include the PLC course. We hope this will help students graduate on time and meet the needs of employers. The current and new academic pathways are attached.

Lara will ask the board members who are interested, to review the attachments (course learning objectives) and provide feedback. Because of technical difficulties, Lara was unable to bring the attachments up on the screen. A Skype meeting will be set up to provide an opportunity for the sub-committee to meet virtually. Members would like to show the learning objectives to their staff and receive feedback directly from people working in the field.

Discussion of soft skills. There is a new initiative to incorporate soft skills curriculum into the learning management system (MyCourses). Additionally, Workforce Institute is offering 5G classes to address the five generations in the workforce.

Joe Benavides addressed the opportunities offered through the Career Development Center on the campuses.

Introduction of the new full-time electronics/mechatronics faculty member, Dr. Andres Cardenas-Valencia. He gave a brief overview of his experience and believes there are several areas that could be modified in the electronics curriculum to ensure the curriculum is relevant.

Lara Sharp explained how to interpret the course learning objectives.

Major objectives are in bold. (Example: Student will demonstrate major.....)

Underneath this statement are the benchmarks. These are competencies that the student needs to meet to show that the objectives are met. The committee can be helpful in reviewing these competencies for relevancy. There is no limit to the number of benchmarks for each objective. Lara will send out an email with a doodle poll for those who are interested and available to review the Learning Objectives.

Andreas also invited the members to email him if there are any specifics from their company that he could use as incidental examples about employers in his class. Lara also encouraged the members to come into the class to speak; especially, about the culture of their company. This is a great opportunity to address soft skills and specifics about working in the industry. She also thanked the members who have been working with Joe Benavides to provide SPC students tours of their facilities.

Lara will send the committee the names of the professors who teach in the program, their contact information and the subjects they are teaching.

Current Job Opportunities

I-3 Microsystems talked about their company and their needs. Starting salary is \$17.00 per hour.

Brycoat – is always hiring technician

Both of these companies have a number of SPC graduates working for them.

GE Aviation talked about his current needs and would like to know more about the internship program. He will touch base with Richard Smith.

Lara announced that Raytheon is also hiring.

Jobs can be posted on Handshake. If employers have positions please contact Lara.

Also, there are a number of students who are on the A.A. transfer track in engineering who are looking for opportunities for job shadowing as they are going on to the university to obtain their engineering degree. These students are always looking for opportunities to learn more about the field of engineering.

New Committee Chair

Discussion then ensued about electing a new chair. Mike Brewster has been the chair for the last two years. This is a position that needs to be rotated. Lara charged the committee to consider volunteering for the position. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

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Meeting adjourned at 7:55AM