

Plumbing and Heating Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Call to order 5:00 pm October 21, 2021

Minnesota West

Pipestone Campus

1314 N. Hiawatha Avenue

Advisory board members present:

Scott Williams

Bisbee Plumbing and Heating

Jaime Rieck

Stout and Evinck Plumbing and Heating

Denny Spartz

Spartz Plumbing and Heating

Travis Spartz

Spartz Plumbing and heating

Jim Stout

Interim Instructor

Tom Bohlke

BTU Heating, Cooling and Plumbing

Facilitator

Jackie Otkin, Dean

Agenda Topics

1. Curriculum Outlines - Review Dacum Results

Dean Otkin provided the committee members with the current program outline and course syllabi. The initial discussion was based on course content that originated from the DACUM meeting several years ago. All committee members were concerned as to why the program was only 1 year. They expressed several reasons as to why this was problematic. One being, the limited number of apprenticeship hours a student would be able to apply to his/her journeyman's license. Secondly, they did not feel the 1-year program provided the student with enough content in HVAC or Plumbing. They also recommended that hydronics, geothermal and septic systems were important parts of the trade industry and really need to be added to the program.

2. Current faculty needs

Dean Otkin expressed a concern about the difficulty of finding an instructor with credentials in both disciplines. The current faculty member did not have experience in HVAC so the college was looking for someone to teach the HVAC courses for spring semester. The committee gave several recommendations as to professionals in the area that would be qualified to teach.

3. Apprenticeship Hours

Advisory members were concerned about the students getting their apprenticeship hours verified and signed off on. The committee strongly encouraged the college to reach out to the state for clarification on rules so the students would be eligible for his/her apprenticeship hours. A master plumber must be the qualified signer.

4. HVAC- EPA Certification

The committee members also expressed the importance of EPA and water piping certifications. The college will look into this as well.

5. Recommended splitting the program

Committee members again asked why the program of Plumbing and Heating and Air conditioning were combined. Committee members advised the college to split the program into two one-year programs. apart and to have two separate programs. One program would be a one-year plumbing program and the other would be a one-year heating and air conditioning program. Advisory committee members inquired about having an electrical program on campus because electrical is more involved with HVAC than it is with plumbing.

6. Substitute Teacher

Jim Stout gave an overview as to the current progression of the students and an update on the project house. Work has begun on the current EDA house with the PVC DWV rough in starting process.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm