

Powerline Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2020
Granite Falls Campus

Members present: Eric Hamm, Jeff Benson, Lyle Lamote, Troy Blankinhagen, Paul Lanoue, Trent Skefte, Brian Binebose, Chad Nelson, George Madden, Doug Schuett

Members absent: Dennis Clifford, Pete Wyffels, Tim Braulick, Mike Willets, Ryan Craig, Greg Dent, Scott Luberts.

The meeting was called to order at 11:16 a.m. with the first agenda item of introductions of members present.

The group went on a tour of the classroom and laboratory facilities since this is the first year with Powerline at the Granite Falls Campus. After the tour the committee enjoyed lunch provided by Dallas II.

There was solid discussion regarding the possibility of transitioning to a 9-month program. The advisory committee discussed the pros and cons and determined that they would be in support of the following in order of preference:

1. Push back start date by 2 weeks
2. Keep as is
3. Pursue a 9-month program

Brian gave an update on federal CDL requirements and plans for offering a CDL course to area high schools in April of 2020. The committee was very supportive of pursuing course options to conduct training to obtain their permit.

Brian and Doug presented on the program offerings at Minnesota West. The committee discussed the relevance of the content to industry for each of the diplomas and AAS degrees and did not recommend any changes to the core curriculum.

The committee spent time discussing preferred qualities for candidates right out of school and how the college can implement these into the courses. The committee recommended that the program have a displayed safety strategy.

The committee discussed the importance of transmission and considering emphasizing this in the program outcomes.

Dean Paul Lanoue discussed the importance of the upcoming HLC visit and the implications for the college so that the committee was aware that there would be upcoming emails on course outlines and course objectives.

Brian discussed the 3 credit Generation/Transmission/Distribution course offered to YME and Montevideo students with 9 students. The committee was very supportive of this venture.

Doug brought up discussion on the possibility of industry partners helping out in purchasing poles for the program or if they had any good used poles that they would be willing to give to the school. George brought up that they have a bunk full of good used poles and Troy also said that they would be retiring poles and that there was a possibility that the college could get them. Doug and Brian will be in communication with the companies and take a look at them and see if the materials would be useable for program needs which would save a substantial percentage of the budget allowing for updating other equipment and tools.

Brian thanked the members of the committee for past donations to the program and generated ideas for potential donations and ways to support the program in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Lanoue

Recorder