

Precision Machining Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Minnesota West Community & Technical College Granite Falls Campus
February 14, 2020 8:00am

Members Present: Dewey Pile, DP Machining
Chad Gregoire, Specialty Industries, Inc.
Jacque Peters, Chandler Industries, Inc.
Mike Lee, Action Manufacturing, Inc.

College Staff: Ray Louwagie, Faculty
Dawn Regnier, Dean

Called to Order: 8:10am

Approve Minutes 12/17/18 Meeting: Jacque P. motioned, Dewey P. Second; Minutes approved

Welcome & Introduction of Members

New Business:

- Precision Machining Program Modifications Approved Fall Semester: Ray reviewed the Precision Machining program highlighting the program modifications introduced last year are now approved and in place for FY20. Ray and Dawn discussed the Higher Learning Commission process and reviewed the Program Learning Outcomes for the Certificate, Diploma and AAS Degree and the completion of the new course outlines and course descriptions.
- Proposal for New Precision Metal Fabrication Diploma Program at Granite Falls Campus introduced and discussed. Ray discussed the program at South Central College and the impact it has been having on the Precision Machining enrollment. He provided the description of the program and indicated the intention is to offer the Precision Machining Certificate in the Fall semester and the Welding Certificate with CNC fabrication in the Spring semester to attract students to the Granite Falls Campus. Ray provided the quotes for a CNC Press Brake \$38,295 and Plasma table \$14,380 for education and programming purposes.

Reaction and Discussion by Committee Members: Committee asked clarifying questions about the programming and drafting software taught. Ray indicated that currently use AutoCad it is free to the College and to the student for 2 years after graduate from program. There would be a cost for the Solid Works license \$150. Committee discussed the two software programs stating that Solid Works is easier to start and learn and suggested it be incorporated into the Program either in the second semester or the AAS degree because industry is trending toward Solid Works. Committee members discussed the reason to add a program that could take away from Precision Machining enrollment. Dewey P. supported the idea as a good way to "get the students in the door" and emphasized the need to do whatever we could to get and keep the students "here" rather than going away to College. Jacque P. asked for clarification about offering the Precision Machining in the Fall, having students go to Welding in the Spring and not returning to Precision Machining due to the wait time until the following Spring semester. She asked about the option to offer both sets of courses again in the Fall; one for new students and the second semester for the returning students. Dewey P. indicated that metal fabrication, metal bending, and programming requires critical thinking, the machines somewhat do the calculations but the operator still needs to understand the process. Jacque P. and Dewey P. both indicated that fabrication is a big component of Precision Machining to make casings that the machined parts go into and that at the Minneapolis Plant all they do is fabricating for casings for the Defense Industry. Dewey P. restated that the broader picture here is to recruit and keep students here and stated that for the investment it is a good idea. Chad G. motioned to move forward with the Precision Metal Working program, if budget permits, and address the course delivery possibilities to avoid losing students from Precision Machining and seriously consider adopting Solid Works into the program. Jacque P. seconded; motion approved.

Ray and Dawn thanked the Committee for the discussion and indicated they will continue to move the proposal through the next steps in the consideration and approval process.

- **Advisory Committee Membership & Terms:** Ray provided the list of Advisory Committee Members identifying the terms determined at the first meeting in 2016. Three member terms either expired in December 2019 and/or will expire in 2020. Ray asked for discussion and interest in renewing their membership. Dewy P. and Chad G. agreed to renew for another 3 year term; Ray will contact Dave Yaeger. Mike Lee indicated interest in serving on the Advisory Committee but did not commit to a term length during the meeting.

Old Business / Updates: Ray provided the update for the committee on the following topics:

Equipment & Lab Area:

- Purchased a table top CNC Mill and basic CAM software package used for College Fairs and High School visits cost of \$980.
- Bridgeport Mill moved from Mechatronics Lab to Precision Machining Lab and installed DRO during the semester break.
- One monitor on the EZ Trak unit needs to be replaced; a second unit has a software issue. Estimated cost to repair and replace \$2,200.
- **Equipment to Eliminate:** Wire EDM, Hardinge Chucker, Drill Press are no longer operational and the cost to repair exceeds value of the equipment. Recommend to eliminate the equipment. The Sodick Wire machine is not used. It is large and when not used for the program creates an outdated image of the lab. Recommending to announce on the Minnesota State List Serve and sell it to use funds to support upgraded equipment, estimated value \$9,000.
- **Floor coating & Air System Upgrade:** Ray discussed the need to apply a floor coating and upgrade the air system in the ceiling. Total estimated cost would be \$4,500.

Committee members discussed the equipment and concurred that out dated or unused equipment is a turn off for high school students. Dewy P. indicated that Alex Tech no longer teaches molding in the program and is not using its Sodick machine. Chad G. mentioned that Specialty Industries may have an upgrade for the panel. Jacque Peters motioned to repair and replace the EZ Trak units and complete shop upgrades, budget permitting, and eliminate the unused equipment; seconded by Chad G. Motion approved.

Marketing & Promotion & Recruitment

Ray shared that Nicole Zempel is the Marketing/Recruiter for MN West at the Granite Falls Campus. Nicole is very outgoing and actively markets the Precision Machining program and schedules high school and other events.

- Prepared marketing flyers for the Precision Machining program and a joint flyer for the Manufacturing Programs at Granite Falls Campus. Ray and students distributed flyers and received 3 students from the flyer placement at HyVee and other locations. Planning to repeat this year.
- Provided the photos and ordered the upright banner and 3 wall banners supported by Student Senate funds for the classroom and to use at Career Fairs.

Upcoming and Current Events:

- **Introduction to Machining Evening class:** Ray L. offered a 24-hour introduction course for 6 adult students, two of which are High School teachers. The students indicated that it was very valuable and suggest it is offered again. Plan to offer again and hope it will be a feeder into the diploma program.
- Will be presenting at the Job Fair hosted at the Tracy High School on Feb. 19 and bringing the 2 Tracy/Milroy High School students currently in the program along to assist with recruitment.
- Breaking Traditions March 25; Career Day at Canby Campus March 27
- Repeat Career Focus Day in June for Manufacturing Programs at Granite Falls Campus, good recruitment from last year.
- Working with Gail Polejewski, SW/WC Service Cooperative to schedule high school presentations during 2020.

Completed Events:

- Hosted the Lakeview High School 10th Grade students for the career/manufacturing awareness
- Attended Career Fair Montevideo in October 2019
- Hosted 9th and 11th Grade High School students from Montevideo High School
- Attended the Career Expo for 10th grade high school students in September; SMSU in Marshall 1,200 students MN West in Worthington 820 students.
- Fall Semester Field trips included DP Machining; Specialty Industries; Chandler Industries; Action Manufacturing; Vishay; HR Tooling.
- Introduction to Manufacturing Awareness Fall semester: 15 area high school students attended again during Fall semester. Two current students were recruited from the Fall 2018 class.

Committee Members favored the recruitment and marketing being done and reinforced having students or recent graduates of the program accompany as they are closer in age and high school students relate better, may "hear" the message in different manner. Dewy P. offered that Ray could bring his employee James to recruitment events, he was a recent graduate and would represent the College well.

Program Sustainability:

- Dawn R. discussed the consistent enrollment of 6 students each of the past 3 years and 7 students for current year. Target enrollment for Fall 2020 is 12 students and asked for support from Committee members to assist in reaching the target.
- Information provided about the Minnesota Pipeline Dual Training Grant Program and highlighted the application opens March 23 and the deadline is May 1, 2020. Showcased the new in person and webinar offering instructions for application preparation new this year. Jacque P. indicated she would promote the opportunity within the Montevideo Plant employees.
- Information provided about the new Automation Training Incentive Pilot Program for employers with under 100 employees that have adopted automation within their operation.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50am.