

**MINNESOTA WEST COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
ELECTRICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUETS  
MARCH 4, 2008**

**ATTENDEES:** Instructors: Rob Arp, Jim Brewers, Jerry Deuschle, and Judy Drown  
Field Representatives: Bob Wolf, IBEW Training Director  
Kory Rawstern, IBEW Business Rep.  
Student Representative: Trevor Humphey, Canby Campus

**UNABLE TO ATTEND:**

Bob Walsh, Chairman, MN. Valley REC  
Al Aanenson, McClure Electric  
Doug Lutterman, Electrical Inspector  
Joe Yeske, ECHO Electric Supply  
Andy Toft, IBEW Business Manager

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**Electrical Circuits Fundamentals Class**

There is a problem of time and lab space. There are only six NICA lab trainers, so only six students may work on lab at a time and the remainder of the class would have to just wait for space to open. There was discussion about a change to split the class in half. Half would work on the NIDA labs, while the other half would have lecture, then switch. A consensus agreed that this was a good use of time and would be a good option for the students. A Motion was made by Bob Wolf, seconded by Kory Rawstern to place the split into action as a good workable option.

**High School Counselors**

A question was asked by Bob and Kory about the High School Counselors and our relationship with them. Do they promote post high school technical studies as an option or do they just push the four year college? Popular opinion today seems to be the four degree is not enough to ensure future life time success. Bob spoke to South Dakota high school counselors, educating them into technical studies as a good option for students to be successful. Technical studies in high schools should not be thought of as only for the students that cannot make it in college or the "D" student. Bob said the counselors were appreciative of the information they had no idea of the potential of the technical professional. Bob and Kory suggested that we should find a way to get together with counselors and tell them our story. Jim indicated he has visited with several high school counselors.

**Program Prerequisites**

There was a consensus among the attendees that electrical students do not need to be mathematicians but do need to have a certain level of competency in math. Jim proposed that students who do not place high enough on the ACUPLACER would be required to take MATH 0092 as a prerequisite to ELCO 1100. All agreed to this proposal.

**Placement**

A question was asked about placement. How many openings are there out there for our students? After some discussion, the numbers seem to show about 20 openings for each student graduating this spring from MN West. This is good for our students. The representatives of the Dakota Union gave both campuses of MN West a pat on the back for having very desirable students.

**General Education Credits**

There was continued discussion about the number of credits required for graduation from the Electrical Program at MN West. Information for clarification included 78 credits for diploma includes 11 credits of general education and 88 credits for AAS degree includes 21 credits of general education. What do other programs require? Rob informed the committee of the fact that MN West has the highest number of required credits of all of Minnesota schools and has tried to make a cut to equalize program numbers. MN West has a requirement of 15 percent Gen Ed's. for diploma. Other schools have the same numbers, but have been given a variance to permit less Gen Ed's. As numbers of applicants for the electrical program decline, this additional cost to students may inhibit numbers for our program. Advisors question the necessity of that number of gen- eds. Contractors do not care about their apprentice's general knowledge but their electrical knowledge and abilities. Question was asked if the recommendations of the Advisory Committee held any clout or were they just filed.

We all agreed to try to meet in the fall to peruse action and possibly approach the new president.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted,  
Jerry Deuschle