

Minnesota West Machine Tool
Advisory Committee Meeting
April 8th, 2008

Members: Ivan Stueckrath, Josh Hass, Chad Gregiore, Jill Prahm, Pete Lyngen, Jason Hall, Scott Pederson, Todd Lindell, Jeff Nieuwbeerta, and Ron Arneson.

Items for discussions:

We talked about the plans for changing the Machine Tool Lab into a one Lab shop. The following are some of the changes that are going to take place.

1. Move completely out of room 102.
2. Knock down the tool crib and inspection room walls.
3. Make an open inspection room, open tool crib, and a computer lab in the area that is opened up. Move the wire EDM and CNC lathe into room 101. This will make the lab all in one room. This should help with safety and make it easier for the instructor to cover the lab area.
4. Try to trade old equipment for new milling machines.
5. A new wash basin will be installed.
6. Floors will be resurfaced and walls painted.

Scott Pederson talked about the changes in the machining industry and the new type of people that will be needed. One area that is growing fast is machining centers using advanced cutting tools and high speed spindles. High metal removal rates and hard machining are two things that are changing the machining industry. We talked about what it would take to get our students exposed to this type of technology.

Pete told about Chandler Industries buying a shop in China. He said a many of the simpler jobs are going to that shop. We need to keep ahead in the machining field to keep this country strong.

Alexandria Technical College has partnered with local businesses to keep up to date with equipment. The members of the committee were wondering why our equipment budgets are so limited. We talked about being part of a five school system and how the funding is divided. General consensus was

that Alexandria Tech. has a little more control of what goes on in each department. I keep trying to get as modern equipment as we can afford.

We talked about going to 60 credits to save students money and to meet the new state guidelines. Many of our students work in local machining companies while going to school that helps them get more machining background. Many others work work-study in the Machine Tool Lab and get extra machining time that way. The students need time on machines to get the training they need.

All of the members of the committee would like to get the new president of the college to tour their companies to see the high tech needs of the school. We have to keep up with industry to keep supplying the workforce that is needed for our local economy.

Donations of tooling and material are greatly appreciated from the members of the advisory committee.

Ron Arneson
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