

**Wind Energy Technology
Advisory Board Meeting via Webinar
Special Meeting to Discuss Faculty Position
November 11, 2009
2:00pm-3:00pm**



Members Present:

Deb VanDerostyne & Amber Pesek, Outland; Don Webber, Vestas; Dennis Hampel, Duane Carrow, Katie Delaney, and Rebecca Weber.

Minutes:

1) Job Responsibilities & Duties

Duane Carrow opened to explain the focus of this meeting was to discuss our search for an additional full-time Wind Energy Faculty. He touched on the job responsibilities and duties (listed below) and the importance of each.

- Instruct, evaluate and advise students
- Develop and update curriculum, as necessary
- Conduct/participate in department meetings, advisory committee meetings and college wide meetings
- Maintain currency in the field through participation in professional organizations and completion of upgrading activities
- Perform other duties as assigned by the Vice President of Academic Affairs or Dean of Career and Technical Programs

2) Qualifications

Current qualifications are as follows:

Minimum Qualifications: Eligibility to meet MnSCU credentialing guidelines in Wind Energy (License #500028) which requires: Bachelor's degree in engineering, or an associate's degree in wind energy technology, mechanical technology or electricity (electrician);

PLUS: Three full-time years (or equivalent) of verified related paid work experience in assembly, installation and maintenance of wind generating equipment with an emphasis on mechanical systems and subsystems (turbine components, gearboxes, lubricants, preventative maintenance).

This experience must also include responsibility for monitoring and compilation of data for determination of accuracy and function of mechanical and electrical equipment and four of the following: wind turbine generators, hydraulic systems, electrical systems, wind turbine models and blades, wind resource assessment/performance based modeling, utility power purchase contracts, wind turbine siting and construction, commercial wind farms, failure analysis, resource assessment and mechanical systems. (One year of this work experience shall be within the five years immediately preceding the date of application for the credential field. The recency requirement shall be waived if the individual has two years of successful full-time (or equivalent) postsecondary teaching experience in the credential field within the last five years.)

Preferred Qualifications: Bachelor's degree and Experience in training and teaching, curriculum design and development

Duane explained that these qualifications were originally written by Mn West and adopted as a standard by MnSCU. Mesabi Range Community College has submitted a request for credentialing revisions due to the lack of qualified applicants. However, Advisory Board input is necessary before we submit our comments. **The task posed to the Board was to endorse the following modified qualifications: Minimum of a two year degree/diploma plus 3 years proven Wind related experience.**

Dennis H. commented that we must require a two year degree to ensure applicants have experience in a college setting and that 3 years experience is a solid requirement. Deb V. voiced her agreement with Dennis and that modification. Don W. said it is important to require a two year degree, but could be from any industrial/Heavy Equipment type program to be applicable to teach wind energy. A qualified applicant really needs to know the basics of power generation, from there the rest can be added. Those with degrees as machinists would be okay, but not those with only an automated process control degree. He also commented that from what he is hearing, we are looking for a generalist to teach a bit of everything, not a specialist in one field. Both Dennis and Duane agreed.

Dennis closed the conversation stated he would submit our modified qualifications as follows:

Our preferred qualification would be a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering, but in lieu of a B.S., a two year degree/diploma (preferably in Industrial/Heavy Equipment) would be accepted. In addition, 6,000 hours (3 years) proven wind related work experience.

3) Salary

Duane reported that starting pay (as determined by MnSCU not Minnesota West) for a faculty position is \$37,500 for someone meeting minimum qualifications, plus \$1750 for each additional year of experience (after 3). The maximum starting pay we can offer would be \$54,500 for a 171 day contract. After seven years, top range is \$68,000. Both Don W. and Deb V. stated that our pay scale is a challenge, what is offered is not enough. Explaining that an individual with the knowledge we are looking for will be offered much more than \$68,000 to teach in Industry, especially upon another industry surge as in 2008. Duane asked where we should advertise. Deb suggested AWEA Job Board and North American Wind Power. Don suggested a placement services company, if we were able to pay their fees.

Duane closed the meeting by thanking attendees.