

*Minnesota West Community & Technical College  
Pipestone Campus*

*Carpentry Program  
Advisory Committee*

*Meeting Minutes*

*February 14, 2013*

**I. Call to order**

Luke Olson called to order the regular meeting of the Carpentry Advisory Committee at 4:00 February 14th, 2013 at Callaway's in Sioux Falls, SD.

**II. Roll call**

Luke Olson conducted a roll call. The following persons were present:

Michael Meyer: Chair, Education Committee of HBASE

Mark Dunbar: Instructor, Career & Technical Education Academy, Sioux Falls

Tom Hines: Frisbee, Sioux Falls, SD

Todd Anawski: HBASE Staff

Greg Nepl: Construction Technologies Instructor, MTI

Dennis Hartman: Cabinet Maker, Hills MN

**III. Old business**

- a) **No old business**

**IV. New business**

- a) **Carpentry Program:** Luke Stated that the program has currently 9 students enrolled in the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 1<sup>st</sup> year programs. Board members commented that these numbers seem low. Luke stated the numbers are low, and that there has been seven or so carpentry programs shut down around the state. We do not want to be number eight so that's why we are going to try a one year program. Luke also stated that the students are working in stacked labs, this has worked ok, as second year students are able to work and mentor the first year students.
- b) **2012-2013 Project House Update:** Luke Olson noted that the progress on the Project house is going well. He stated that the class has just finished sheet rocking. They are now starting Cabinet Making and finishing up siding. The house is located on the SW side of town; the address of the project house is 905 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW. Luke commented that the Project House is a great

marketing tool for our program and students really like this aspect of the program.

c) **Cancelling AAS degree, 2 year Carpentry Diploma, and going to a one year diploma:**

All members received a copy of the proposed courses made available by Luke Olson. Luke started out by explaining the current curriculum has two options, a 60 credit AAS degree or 45 credit 2 year diploma. The AAS course and the diploma course are taught alongside of each other minus the 15 credit general studies for the AAS degree.

Luke explained that in the Fall of FY 2014 we would like to go to a 1 year Diploma. The reasons for these changes are trying to save the college money and increase enrollment based on more students wanting a high quality and faster paced education. Luke stated the program will be run more like the second year of the current two year program. The students will still build a residential home from foundation to finish. They will be lectured in the class for an hour or so and then head out to the project house for hands on instruction.

Discussion took place among the advisory board members. The committee asked Luke if he felt it was best for the students to go two years. Luke stated that it had worked well in the past, but with only one instructor and low enrollment, going to one year just seems to make sense. Members stated this new course work could help enrollment and in today's economy, and paying less for almost the same education sounds good. The committee came to the consensus that the college is doing everything they can to keep the program afloat and if switching to a one year diploma helps while still turning out quality students then there is no reason for further discussion. Greg Neppel motioned that the carpentry program switch to a 34 credit one year diploma, Todd Anawski seconded. Motion Carried.

### **Adjournment**

Luke Olson entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting, Steve Tutt seconded, meeting adjourned at 4:45pm.

Minutes submitted by: Luke Olson: Carpentry Instructor