

**Minnesota West Community and Technical College
Electrical Program Advisory Committee
Minutes of October 5, 2013**

Members present: TJ Kor-BSE, Andy Toft, Chris Sovoda-Schwans, Aaron Christenson-IBEW, Mike Meier-Meier Electric, David LeBaron, student, Adam Hotzler, student, Matty Duhoux, student, Tony Kipka, student, Trevor J. Humphrey-Mears Electric, Jim Brewers, Instructor, Rob Arp, Instructor, Judy Drown, Instructor, Jerry Deuschle, Instructor.

Call to order: Chairman Chris Sovoda

Introductions

New Business:

1. Approval of old minutes.

It was moved and seconded that the old minutes be approved.

2. Old Business

A. Program changes Due to 60/120

A waiver has been submitted to the state on behalf of MN West. The diploma program has been submitted at 74 and is currently at 78. The AAS degree is at 88 and will be moved to 81.

B. Solar Energy

There has been a lot of talk about teaching solar energy. Mike Meier spoke about bidding different projects and the challenges with all the different styles and manufactures. The same challenges would be present while trying to teach it. It is also a niche market and most contractors that work with systems will provide training themselves. As a group we decided that it would be more practical to spend a few days talking about the different styles and the basic principles involved.

C. College/Contractor Relations

Rob and Jerry talked about drafting a letter for contractors the would state if they had any extra material, small scraps of wire or conduit, salvageable equipment or parts and pieces they would be willing to donate. TJ Kor of Border States Electric volunteered since his delivery team goes to each shop they could pick the materials and then deliver them to the college. The details of the project will be worked out.

3. New Business

A. Building interest in technical studies for future students

We spoke about contacting AG/FFA programs to get involved with students at a younger age to plant the seed early about technical programs.

a. Jerry expressed interest in steel stud construction labs and maybe having one or two set up for students to experience. Judy raised concerns about safety and said it was a great idea but we would need to implement a glove policy while working on the lab. The committee agreed those were both good ideas and safety concerns.

B. Academic prep for students

All the instructors spoke about the academic level that they have seen over the years and they feel that if there was some type of freshman seminar or a way to express the level of knowledge that will be expected from incoming students that would help with the transition to school.

C. Marketing Trends

Judy spoke about advertising on the Minnesota Electrical Association (MEA) website/newsletter. The student representatives talked about the importance of the MN West website and adding more pictures of students doing and learning. They also talked about the Facebook page. Other ideas were getting more involved with state and local fairs so that the message would be seen by a younger audience.

D. Electrical Instructor Summit

Canby campus will be hosting the first ever instructor summit on Feb 20-21. It will be a two day event that will have wholesale reps, vendors, and keynote speakers of other industry based events. The main goal of this will be to align the electrical instructors statewide with industry practices and the future of electrical in Minnesota.

It was then moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting.