

Wind Advisory board Meeting

December 6, 2012



Members Present: Loren Hacker, Jim Nichols, Amber Pesek, Dan Wildermuth, Greg Crowser, Gary Olsen, Tim Hansen, Rebecca Weber, Duane Carrow, Elliot Lorenzen, Matt Sundstrom

Meeting Minutes:

1.) Introductions

Gary Olsen opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions were made.

2.) Instructor introduction

Gary announced that Brad Bolluyt is no longer an instructor at MN West, and the wind instructors are down to 2 instructors, Gary Olsen who does more of the electrical and Tim Hansen who handles most of the mechanical side. Gary asked that members present, review the previous meeting minutes. Motion was made by Jim and all approved the minutes from December 1, 2011.

3.) Curriculum Review

a. Course modifications in 2012-2013.

AAS degrees are required to be at 60 credits through the MNSCU system. 2 other institutions were called and said they were also not going to budge from 72 credits. Question was asked if the state was going to cut funding if they didn't go down to 60 credits, Rebecca Weber answered that they have to request a waiver with documentation to show that the program needs to stay at their amount of credits. Program outlines were compared to see what the schedules would look like if the program went from 64 to 60 and what classes were to be cut. RNEW 1105 was going to be cut as Tim and Gary felt that it was being taught twice with the ELWT 1170 class Wind Energy OSHA standards and climbing lab. Comment was made that the state was trying to cut down credits, so that the state could cut cost and not worry about the student outcome.

Math and general education courses\focus on applied math. There's no time to go back so we keep teaching forward. First thing we need to do is review and work from there.

90% attitude and 10% aptitude. If you have someone who might not know much but has a good attitude is going to work hard for you because they show passion for what they are doing. Initiative is to add internships for all technical schools across the states. School pays half and industry would pay other half. Lauren Hacker said that social skills class need to be a hard class, with today's society and some of the classes being online classes and not getting that face to face contact with others and losing the aspect of working in teams.

Jim, made a motion for the program outline to move from a 64 credit program down to a 60 credit program, all members approved the motion.

Jim, Motion was made to add college algebra to the A.S.S degree and to add the math 1100 to the diploma, all members passed the motion.

College algebra was asked if it could be a required General Ed class. Most wind students are taking math 1105 at 4 credits and don't make it through it. Further down the road seeing if they can point students in the direction of taking college algebra. Gary feels that college Algebra would help in the electrical, hydraulics and mechanical sides of the program. What is the goal? Do we want to add math to the outline? Are we going to lose students by making them take algebra or are we willing to take the loss to have 5 students who take the initiative and go on the right path and end up successful in the work place?

b.) AWEA

Students went to AWEA last year and had a booth down there. One student ended up getting a job from their participation in that event.

c.) What are some marketing ideas?

Amber Pesek asked how many students were enrolled 13 second year and 7 first year students. 3 years ago they had 30 students. Numbers are going down for all of the surrounding areas that are now opening up their own wind programs.

c.) What are some marketing ideas?

We need to push more of the 2 year technical schools and programs that is where more of the jobs are coming from. Start bringing your program to the high schools to show them what's out there.

4.) Equipment

a.) Purchases 2011-2012.

We are only budgeted a certain amount to get the equipment that is needed for our students. All the equipment that has been purchased is all being used.

b.) Planned purchases 2012-2013.

Been working on buying a crane setup to help with talking and working on signals with a crane operator.

c.) Donations

Gary encourages engine donations, many uses for multiple classes.

d.) Input

Lauren hacker wanted to tell Tim and Gary that he is very impressed with the way they are handling the program and were impressed with everything that they have done.