

## Wind Energy Technology Advisory Board meeting

December 5, 2013

10:00 AM to 12:30 PM, Rm. 106

MN West, Canby campus

Attending: Gary Olsen/Wind instructor, Tim Hansen/Wind Instructor, Dan Wildermuth/Suzlon, Brad Hauptert/Vestas, Waylon Esser/Broadwind, Tim Sherman/Broadwind, Mike DeVires/AES, Amber Pesek/Duke Energy, Rebecca Weber/MN West Campus Dean, Deb Full/ MN West Campus Resource Specialist.

- 1) Welcome/Introductions. Gary Olsen welcomed everyone and asked for introductions as well as updating contact information on the membership list.
- 2) Instructor introductions. Gary gave an update on the current class status.
  - a. Numbers are down for all 2 year technical courses as well as our program
  - b. Resources are limited
  - c. 4 years ago we had 51 wind students and now we have 12.
  - d. We are starting to core some classes: motor controls will now be in the electrical dept.
  - e. We are losing an instructor due to low numbers; Tim does a good job with students.
  - f. We are one of the only colleges that have instructors that have actual WIND experience.
  - g. We have more job openings than students to fill them.
  - h. Students have an opportunity to double major within 3 years with an electrical and wind degree.
  - i. Discussion was held on how to recruit students. Ideas were to create ads geared towards parents of high school students – set up a web-x for parents to educate them, tell students about the placement opportunities. Many high schools promote a four year degree vs. technical degree.
  - j. We have the most success with the non-traditional students as they are more interested in being successful.
  - k. Many companies will pay for employees to get college credits.
  - l. Industry needs to help promote Wind classes as we see it working well in our Diesel program that is always full and industry has a big part in promoting this.
  - m. Military: Soldiers can transfer military training credits into transfer credits in MN schools.
  - n. MN West created a 30 second commercial to be televised. Air time is expensive so we are limited to how often they can be run. A suggestion was made to email the commercial to the companies to share with their employees.
  - o. A suggestion was made to use social media: Facebook/Twitter, etc. to send the commercial out to users and to look into doing advertising on the Facebook pages.
  - p. Discussion was held on high school recruiting efforts: A comment was made that many colleges send DVD's to High School counselors but they never get shown. Some high schools limit the amount of time a college visit can last which makes it difficult to educate/encourage students.
  - q. Former students stay in touch with Gary and Tim and let them know what industry need them to focus on in their classes.
- 3) Curriculum Review
  - a) Course modifications:
    - a. Gary talked about eliminating the airfoils/blades class and combining the airfoils/blades class into wind turbine course curriculum.
    - b. Gary also talked about changing the Applied Calculations class from a 1 credit class to a 2 credit class.
    - c. Both of these changes have Advisory Board approval.

- d. Discussion was held. Industry said math is important. Gary can spend more time on applied math which means that it is relevant to the industry.
  - e. Rebecca mentioned that Basic math is a pre-requisite for the Applied Calc class and Basic math is typically taught in the fall and the Applied Calc in the spring.
  - f. College algebra is still required for an AAS degree.
- b) Student Enrollment
- a. We have 9 students moving from electrical to the wind program next fall
  - b. We currently have 6 first year and 6 second year students.
  - c. Students can earn two degrees in three years of school.
  - d. Electrical classes for wind students will be taught by Electrical instructors.
- 4) Equipment
- a. Gary purchased some hot sticks and grounding rings this year.
  - b. No upcoming purchases this year as budgets are based on enrollment and there is a formula that the college uses for funding.
  - c. Discussion was held about enrollment, marketing, credits, and how to increase students. One idea was to create courses to work in the kind of time frame that industry needs them too. Online courses would work if the employer and school built specific classes that industry needs their employees to have. One big part is that the classes would need to be flexible enough for employees to do on their own pace. Currently industry has safety requirements that need annual updates. Some companies have an in-house trainer, and some companies pay their employees to take the online courses. Company specific courses have been built by the company's technical group.
  - d. Donations – Industry asked what types of donations are needed by the program. Motors are needed. Tower components are needed like small breakers, relays and contactors, gearboxes and generators. Gary took them on a tour to show everyone our labs and the typed of donations that would be helpful.
  - e. Tours of Broadwind, Howard, SD. Classes are welcome to come and tour the Broadwind Gearbox Repair facility in Howard, SD. Gary can take a look at the items they have available to donate.
- 5) Motions made by advisory board.
- a. A motion was made by Dan and seconded by Tim S. to put the airfoils and motors class in the wind course. Motion carried unanimously.
  - b. A motion was made by Mike and seconded by Dan to change the Applied Calculations class from 1 credit to a 2 credit course. Motion carried unanimously.
- 6) Tour of facility and lunch – Gary and Tim took members on a facility tour and then lunch was served by the Campus Grill.

Respectfully,

Deb Full, Campus Resource Specialist