

**Automotive Advisory Board Meeting  
November 9, 2017  
MN West Room R105**

1. Members present:

<i>Name</i>	
Brian Huebert	Present
Staci Warmka	Present
Dan Hodnefield	Present
Chris Hodnefield	Present
Sam Haberman	Present
Lucky Moo	Present
Dave Cushman	Present
<i>Instructors:</i>	
Mark Temple	Present
Doug Kleeberger	Present

2. Table talk during pizza:

- a. Brian Huebert and Sam Haberman arrive early to walk through the labs and report to the advisory board about equipment, tools and building issues. No issues to report, but they were excited and were encouraging other members to go to the main lab to see the new alignment machine.
- b. Alignment machine:
  - There was limited state funding available at the end of last school year on a first-come-first-serve basis for all technical colleges in the state of MN. Money was given to programs who had already documented specific equipment needs. Due to this advisory board having adequately noted the need for a new alignment machine in previous meetings, MN West was granted the money to purchase our new John Bean alignment machine.
- c. Program health:
  - Students are in good spirits. The semester is moving along smoothly.
- d. Program numbers:
  - Numbers are somewhat lower than normal, but not horrible. Powersports students and Automotive students are cored together for three classes. It is assumed that the overall numbers for the Auto Program will be considered “good” because of the combined classes.
  - Doug has taught two sections of classes at AGCO this fall. As before, we assume our automotive student numbers to be very solid as each AGCO student was previously classified as an auto student.

3. Meeting called to order by Brian Huebert.

4. Old minutes read by Brian Huebert.

- a. Motion made by Dave Cushman to accept the old minutes as read.
- b. Motion seconded by Dan Hodnefield.
  - No Discussion
- c. Motion carried unanimously.

5. New business:

- a. Snap-On Meter Package and the Snap-On Versa Scanner Package became available through a NC3 education grant in Minnesota. The grant is free money, not needing to be paid back to the state.
  - MN West won the grant and will purchase the items in the future.
  - Sam was concerned about the Auto Program’s budget and wondered how much the special tool purchases would affect the automotive program’s available funds in the future.

- Mark replied that the program budget will not be used for this purchase and that the budget would not change in the future. Program budget is determined by the college.
- b. Due to unforeseen circumstance, both instructors were given lay-off notices during the month of October from MN West. The layoff will be in effect on the last day of this 2017-2018 school year.
    - Doug and Mark explained that they had no prior indication of this decision, and both instructors were caught off-guard. They assumed that the program numbers were fine, because numbers had been worse in years past.
    - Members expressed sadness for this news.
  - c. Doug Kleeberger shared with the advisory board that he already proposed an idea to the college administration. He suggested that the current two-year curriculum and degree could be restructured into a one-year program.
    - There is a NATEF standard for AST (Automotive Service Technology) that could be achieved in one year. MN West is currently certified for MAST (Master Automotive Service Technology).
    - The end result would be a program that would only need one instructor.
      - Chris Hodnefield asked if Doug would be permanently out of work. Doug replied that he could always come back to college and teach after Mark retires.
  - d. Advisory board members discussed the idea of having a one-year program.
    - Staci Warmka said that a one-year format would be enough training to get her employees going at her repair shop. Students would have continuing education options like AC Delco once they get started working.
    - Dave Cushman said that he might actually prefer a one-year student over a two-year graduate. One-year students would have fewer bad habits to break, and with the current technician shortage, students would be one year faster into the industry. He also said that his dealer world has many training options for his technicians. A one-year program would be a good foundation to build upon.
    - Dan Hodnefield was not comfortable with a one-year program because he said that cars aren't getting any easier to work on. He said, if anything, automotive students should go to college for three years, but, Dan said that a one-year graduate is better than no graduate at all. Dan asked if the advisory board needed to vote on a formal recommendation for the one-year program.
      - All members present agreed that a one-year program was a better option than shutting down the program.
      - Mark Temple said that a vote was not necessary as there was nothing to really vote upon, at this time.
6. Adjournment:
- a. 1<sup>st</sup> Motion for adjournment by Staci Warmka.
  - b. 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion for adjournment by Dan Hodnefield.
    - No Discussion
  - c. Motion carried unanimously

Minutes recorded by Staci Warmka  
 Submitted by Staci Warmka, Secretary