

Welding Advisory Committee Special Meeting Minutes
Minnesota West Community & Technical College Jackson Campus Welding Classroom
January 11, 2019 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Members Present:	Ted Nelson	Fast Global Solutions
	Rod Paplow	AGCO Jackson Plant
	Keith Baumann	AGCO Jackson Plant
	Cole Wunschel	AGCO Jackson Plant
	Janet Sparks	New Fashion Pork
	Paul Nelson	New Fashion Pork
	Melissa DeGroot	Bedford Industries, Inc.
	Joshua Plaff	Bedford Industries, Inc.
	Colin O'Donnell	Bedford Industries, Inc.
	Peter Theis	Praxair
	Scott Schmely	Rosenboom
	James Slipke	Rosenboom

College Staff:	Don Nordstrom, Faculty	Bruce Peterson, Dean
	Dawn Regnier, Dean	Terry Gaalswyk, President

Called to Order: 11:02am by Ted Nelson, Chairperson

Due to the number of new members present Ted Nelson discussed the role, purpose, and expectations of the Advisory Committee. He included the meeting frequency, expectation for curriculum review and direction, resource guidance and partners, equipment review and guidance, and resource partnerships.

Ted asked for any additions to the agenda. Dawn added Strategic Investments/Shared Risk Models and Resource Options.

Due to the career change for Perry from AGCO, the position of Vice Chairperson needs to be filled. Ted entertained self-nominations for the position. Rod Paplow, AGCO, volunteered to serve as Vice Chair. After some discussion, Scott Schmely motioned to elect Rod Paplow as Vice Chair, seconded by Cole Wunschel. Motion approved.

Curriculum Review and Modification Request:

Switch Blue Print Reading and Gas Tungsten courses semester delivery: Don Nordstrom provided the program course list and discussed the curriculum modification; move Print Reading from Spring Semester to Fall Semester; move Gas Tungstun to Spring semester. Don discussed the print reading covered throughout the two semesters including print reading/symbols recognition/code testing. The goal is to set the students apart from other students in the field and assure they understand and are comfortable reading and recognizing prints and symbols. Don indicated that print reading should be covered throughout the entire diploma program and need to begin in the Fall. Also aligns with the 16 credit welding certificate delivery.

Add Tubular/Pipe Welding: Due to industry request, Don requested permission to add Tubular/Pipe welding and discussed the code for tubular AP1104 part of D1.1. Don also indicated that Fox Electric donated a significant amount of tubing so the content can be adopted with minimal expense. Scott S. offered additional tubing donated by Rosenboom.

After significant discussion, Scott S. motioned that the curriculum modification requests are fine and to approve, Cole W. seconded, motion approved.

Industry Needs Discussion:

- Rod P. asked about the introduction of the calculations necessary to repair excessive gaps. Is a need within the industry for employees to repair their own welds. Also discussed preparing own joints/blending/grinding as a trained/learned skill necessary on the job. The “look and appeal” of the weld is part of the process and the finesse of the repair so it does not look like a repair is necessary. Example, grinding marks and swirls don’t always show up on raw metal, but once painted, they really become prevalent. Cole W. offered to have students finished welds/grinds be painted at AGCO so they understand the results of the finished product. Also indicated he appreciated the addition of tubular welding and wants to be certain they learn to put end cap on tube welding. Rod P. asked how they will learn the tubular welding, with the use of a positioner or lazy Susan or free hand? Don indicated he plans to have them learn free hand and be made aware of the positioner tools available.
- Paul Nelson asked about welding instruction on both new and old metal. Don responded that he instructs on both.
- Questions asked regarding number of women in the program and recruitment efforts. Don shared that one of the women from last year’s class is now welding aluminum trailers in Las Vegas and a new student, McKenzie Schultz, will be joining the second semester this year. McKenzie is coming in with the 16-credit certificate and 1 semester of electrician courses.

Bruce Peterson indicated that Xcel Energy is planning to sponsor a Women in Welding Competition for College and High School students on March 26, 2019 in St. Cloud. Bruce will get more details and provide to the Committee and Don for recruitment.

- Exposure to automation question asked due to the need in the future in industry resulting from challenges to recruit and retain welders. Scott S. indicated that Toro had a robotic simulator that has been identified as a donation, just waiting for it to arrive.
- Jackson Middle School Mid-mester Program: Cole W. discussed the program for 7th-8th grade students. The program was 8 days of welding training; half classroom + half hands on welding training. There were 60 students in groups of 10. AGCO employees delivered the training and started with the welding simulator, when mastered then started actual welding to learn basic skills. Janet S. also discussed New Fashion Pork involvement training pork cooking techniques/skills/knowledge. Anticipate a second session in March. Bruce Peterson and Terry G. applauded the employer’s involvement and echoed the need for industry partners to showcase the need for the CTE programs, education opportunity and job/career opportunities as it makes more of an impact and carries more value for the audiences.
- New hire skills gaps are addressed with internal training. More of a challenge is the work attendance/retention.

Addition of Fabrication-Machining Area: Bruce Peterson provided drawings of welding and adjacent areas and discussed the strategic investment and initial work done to re-work the space for better efficiency and utilization. Provided an update regarding the decision to modify the layout due to the need to manage the overhead door. The original plan would not accommodate the overhead door within the budget as it would have added \$150,000 not accounted for. Bruce explained the new layout, ability to utilize existing fire suppression equipment with capacity to expand. The Mental Health space will be used for new machining/computer aided manufacturing programming.

Industry Discussion Machining-CAM Program at Jackson Campus: Pete T. asked about the additional equipment necessary for the fabrication instruction. Don & members discussed a Press/Brakes/Shears/tool room with Lathes/Mills/some automation need to add trigonometry/math. Scott S. commented that fabrication is mostly manual; CNC is mostly for production. Cole W. indicated AGCO tool shop manual milling.

Don and Dawn asked the members about their machining/machinist work and demand in the area for machinists:

- Pete T. is a machinist by trade.
- Rosenboom has 2 fabrication shops in each plant and employees struggle with the math.
- Paul Nelson: Most of the new employees are hired with no welding experience or skills and are trained internally from scratch.
- Fast Global Solutions: Windom High School expanded CTE space dedicated to manufacturing & engineering the students come to Fast one hour each day and work in each area of the plant.
- Bedford Industries: Have their own tool making area with mill/lathe some manual machines and echoed the need for additional math and trig. Colin O. stated Bedford supports the addition of a machining program in the Worthington/Jackson area.

Shared Risk Models: Dawn R. discussed the Shared Risk model of College program delivery and provided a handout showcasing the Carpentry/Mechatronics/Welding/Precision Machining models. Also discussed and provided the links to financial resources including the Minnesota Pipeline Dual Training Grant and the Minnesota Apprenticeship Initiatives to support employee training/instruction resources.

- Melissa D. discussed Bedford Industries experience with the Pipeline Grant program \$6,000 per employee they sent employees to both the Mechatronics and Precision Machining programs. She stated that the application process is super easy, MN West helped with the process. The company pays for the tuition upfront, the College invoices the company and then the company is reimbursed by the grant in a very timely manner. Bedford paid the students while going to class and re-scheduled the work time so no hours were lost.
- Cole W. discussed the AGCO Minnesota Apprenticeship Program, employees go to College during the day and work after school. It has been a good program for AGCO. Dawn R. indicated that TSE-AMETEK in Jackson also secured the MAI funds.
- Terry G. stated the College is positioned to be responsive leveraging the 5 Campuses to be nimble to pivot and move to align with industry needs. The Shared Risk financial model expands the community story and the great opportunities within each community and the impact/influencers for the families, neighborhoods, communities, other organizations, students and job seekers/employees. When everyone has a voice in the story it has greater impact and meaning for prospective students and employees. He also echoed the Shared Risk/Partnership model as the approach for launching new initiatives for the College.
- Terry G. discussed the decision and impact of the tru Shrimp decision to move the first production facility to South Dakota and the process his office has been involved in to be a resource for the incumbent workers, high school students, and the shared risk approach to new degree introduction and introduced himself to the Committee.

Weld Lab/Expanded Area Tour: Upon the conclusion of the meeting, Don and Bruce provided a tour of the current welding area and the new/expanded area for the Committee members.

Meeting adjourned: 1:00pm

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be in February due to the nature of the decisions that will need to be made regarding program expansion for the new space. Ted N. will announce the upcoming meeting schedule and distribute the meeting minutes.