

Wind Advisory Meeting
March 21, 2019 at 12 noon
Canby Campus, England Hall - Room 107

Attendees: Gary Olsen, Minnesota West – Canby; Nathaniel Hurst, Wind Student – Canby; Dan Wildermuth, Suzlon; Nick Sidens, Renew; Brett Citrowske, Renew; Jeremiah Beebout, Duke Energy; Justin Wiedman, Duke Energy; Meghan Hanna, Secretary

12:00: Introductions & Lunch

12:30: Agenda Review

CURRICULUM REVIEW:

- Gary gave an overview of the 3 types of programs:
 - AAS is a 60-credit program (2 year) and is most desirable by the hiring community. Includes Theory, Lab, LabVolt and Nida
 - Diploma is a 34-credit program (1 year)
 - Windsmith Certificate is 16 credits. Not as popular now as it was initially.
- Gary stated the Wind program's goal is to provide a progressive curriculum which must be ever-changing due to the industry growth.
- Discussion about the importance of understanding Theory and Math to ensure well rounded education for students.
- Climb Lab / Training Tower in addition to the Canby Campus turbine and the annual Morris Wind Tower field trip are some of the hands-on experiences provided for the students.
- Gary discussed some of the changes and challenges that have faced the program including staff changes, lower enrollment etc.
- School visits to see what a program offers in person is a key factor to strengthening the Wind program.
- Nathan Hurst stated he had researched the 'top schools' offering Wind degrees and was completely "SOLD" on the Canby program after meeting Gary Olsen and talking with him in person. Gary had him climbing immediately and he was convinced at his visit that Canby was the right place for him.
- Nick stated that Renew's priority is the hands-on experience with Drive Trains, Gear Boxes and Generator alignments. Gary stated YES the Motor Controls courses provide this for the students.
- Brett mentioned terminology and knowledge of generator alignment is a huge area of strength that Renew candidates / employees need to bring to the table.
- Gary stated it would be great to have a bigger version of the Turbine for the students.
- Nick asked if Canby needed a Nacelle? Gary stated yes but difficult to find.
- Discussions about LB2 coming down.
- Dan talked about Dixon, IL repowering 588 units - GE will replace due to depreciation / production tax recall. Maybe someone could bring a Nacelle to Canby? Very Heavy.
- Nick recalled there were 2 Nacelle by the train tracks in Tyler but questioned if they were still there. He will keep an eye out for something.
- Gary stressed again the need to be progressive and forward thinking with the curriculum and equipment to increase interest in the Wind program and build up enrollment numbers. Consistency with instructors and focus on specific program will also enhance the attraction to Canby's Wind program.

DONATION & PROGRAM NEEDS:

- Nacelle - would be a great to have another / newer version for the students to see and maintain.
- Dan stated a tour of Chicago would be great for the students and he could reach out to his contact, Charles, to arrange if this would be possible.

- Nick asked about the 2.0 Vestas by Lake Benton - what happened to it? Said he may be able to find something.
- Gary stated that Bruce Peterson supports an aggressive approach to growing the program.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES / PLACEMENT:

- Gary stated that the prospects are great. He has many companies calling him for candidates but there are not enough students to fulfill the demand which is frustrating.
- Nathan is hearing that potential employers are strongly promoting 2-year programs and encouraging this route whereas they previously were favoring 4 year programs.
- Nick said he would be happy to send supervisory staff to support efforts at Recruiting / Job Fairs and provide perspectives from the employer side.
- Gary states he brings students and equipment along to Job Fairs to connect with potential candidates.
- Dan said that RHR has 40 job openings they are actively searching to fill.
- Nick stated that Wind is a good career path with great opportunities. He encourages bringing organization heads from Renew & Suzlon to meet with potential student and future employment candidates.

ENROLLMENT:

- Gary stated that growth of enrollment in Wind is a huge priority.
- Restated the importance of job fairs and personal meetings.
- Appealing to Non-Traditional students is equally important as high school recruitment.
- Willingness to try anything to obtain growth and keep Canby's program at the forefront.

1:00 Meeting adjourned and Campus Tours were provided.