

DRAFTING/INTERIOR DESIGN MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

6:30 pm

Attendees: Victoria Taylor-Gore, Dan Ferguson, Dan McCall, Ruth De Anda, Seth White, Julie Sutton, Ken George (by conference call), Janice Johnson, Ann Fry, Jeri Brown, Mike Bahn, Don Radon, Jacob Moreno, Tim Diviny (guest), Marie Ellyson (guest)

1. Appointment of the advisory committee chairperson - Jacob Moreno.

Jacob Moreno's company is Alturo Engineering and Design. He graduated from AC and specialized in mechanical engineering and the oil and gas industry. He started his business 2 years ago and employed 13 people.

2. Introduction of everyone in attendance, including any guests.

Dan McCall gave the committee a report on Tony Thomas' health condition and Tony and Dan McCall's upcoming retirements.

3. Review and approval of the minutes from the previous meeting.

Minutes from meeting were approved as written by committee.

4. Continuing Education and Ex-Officio Member Reports

Dan Ferguson and Victoria Taylor-Gore presented Drafting program information about the number of majors, and number of students in specific drafting certificates and the AAS. Dan Ferguson presented the number of graduates over the past several years and noted a steady decline in the number of grads per year and enrollment. Dan Ferguson also noted that there were more drafting openings than we had graduates to fill the positions. Dan Ferguson discussed the possibility of converting articulation agreements in area high school programs to dual credit to feed enrollment.

Jacob Moreno asked about a student's ability to pick courses they need, and Marie Ellyson (student in the Drafting/Interior Design program) noted her delay in graduating due to waiting for course offerings. Victoria explained that courses usually need to have at least 12 students to make, but there were exceptions for upper level single section courses. She explained that going forward courses that remained in current AAS degree plan would be taught out by adjuncts.

Dan Ferguson explained that with the 3.5 million budget cut, AC was forced to look at possible cuts; especially when high need areas don't have enough faculty. The AC retirement buy-out incentive is one solution to help. Shifting faculty lines from low demand to high demand areas is another solution.

Don Radon asked what criteria was used for closing the AAS. Victoria went over the reason's why the AAS may be closing:

Why is AC considering closing the AAS in Drafting/Interior Design?

The Drafting/Interior Design faculty have been unable to make their faculty load requirement several times over the past several years due to small class sizes.

The fact was that three full time faculty in Drafting/Interior Design were too many faculty for the enrollments in the program.

AC is in a budget crisis with overall reduced enrollment and less state funding. AC is moving full time faculty lines in weaker programs with smaller enrollments to areas that have higher enrollments and a high demand for full time faculty (like math, English, speech, history, etc.).

Other considerations are the retirement of Dan McCall and Tony Thomas in January 2016, and those two full time faculty lines are being moved to higher need areas. Ann Fry's teaching contract is not being renewed with the decision to move her faculty line to higher need areas as well, so she will only teach through spring 2016.

Tony Thomas and I have created a new proposed Drafting certificate that could be taught by adjuncts to meet the continuing need for drafting graduates since there are drafting job openings that continue in the community. A new Drafting certificate is the most likely path moving forward.

Don asked why there wasn't a recovery plan since we must have seen this situation coming. Did we go recruit for the program? Dan McCall and Ann addressed his concerns and said that they didn't recruit very much, but the program didn't seem to be in jeopardy. Victoria explained that in the past small classes and faculty loads were not as concerning to the administration, but in this current budget climate, AC was forced to act swiftly to move the faculty lines to higher need areas.

Don stated that he preferred the AAS to the proposed certificate – his business requires a 2-year degree for employment. Dan McCall noted that the administration is going by the numbers. Victoria encouraged the committee to email their current requirements for employment. Jacob said that in his business a certificate was enough to be hired.

Marie asked how much the number of majors had declined in recent years. Ann said that there were about 120 majors 5 years ago, and that there were about 64 now – down almost half in 5 years.

Ken George asked what was needed from the committee. Victoria said committee members need to supply us with data on their hiring needs and requirements. Dan said we needed examples of what credentials with examples of what they have needed in the past and what they need in the future. Ken said that this required dedicated work to do this, and set a goal for the next 2 years of getting the program back.

Victoria said that Tony Thomas had suggested fundraising from companies to help the program, and Ken said that he would speak to Xcel, and that we needed to look at reality and correct causes. The committee agreed that if they had known this before, they would have helped.

5. Report from the Division Advisor.

Ruth De Anda gave her report on remaining courses to teach out the program, and how many students needed each course (starting spring 2016). Victoria and Dan Ferguson agreed that

required courses remaining in the AAS would be taught out or substitutions made so that students could graduate. Ruth also said that she is still getting great interest in drafting from student coming in.

Victoria explained that she and Ruth would create a pathway so that course are taught in set semesters, and some courses only taught once a year. It was nice for students to have courses offered each semester, but that was part of the cause for low enrollment – some course only should be offered once a year so that they will make.

Ann Fry noted that enrollment was up 15 – 20 students from last fall, and there is lots of interest in the program. Victoria said with Dan Ferguson's idea of dual credit drafting courses, there would more students to feed the program. Don noted that Caprock High School had a great drafting program. Ann explained that they could only offer dual credit this year with an instructor of record. Victoria explained that our drafting courses were tech courses and that they didn't automatically transfer, but the AAS included transfer courses in the general education core.

The committee asked how many courses of the AAS were drafting. Victoria said that there were 15 out of 60 core classes and the rest was drafting. The committee questioned if there may be any East Campus courses that could combine with drafting for an AAS such as surveying or electrical.

Ann noted that students in engineering or architecture that drop out don't consider coming back to drafting, and that we needed to catch the students that don't succeed in STEM courses. The committee noted (especially Jacob and Don) that you could make a six-figure income with jobs in drafting with just an associate degree.

6. Old Business

Old business – Mike Bahn was asked at the last meeting to share contacts of architects that could teach for us, but was never contacted about it. Ann Fry said they were forced to fill their own faculty teaching loads. Victoria asked if architects could teach drafting courses and Ann agreed they could. Victoria asked Mike to forward her his architect contacts.

Jacob Moreno said that he had people that could teach pipe drafting. Mike asked where the 3D printing was going, and Dan McCall said that students were using the 3D printers in classes and on their own.

7. More New Business

Mike asked if four-year universities were facing the same funding cuts as community colleges, and Dan Ferguson and Ann explained that community college funding is down 23% and that state funding for community colleges is going steadily down. Victoria noted that the AC president was preparing us for the decline in funding. Dan Ferguson said that there were two plans for community colleges – (1) that funding be based on student completion, and that (2) cut community college funding altogether.

Mike asked if WTAMU could absorb AC, and Ann Fry said that wouldn't work due to WTAMU being a land grant school and they had different rules. Jacob Moreno said that 7 – 15 on his

staff was from AC, and many start with an AAS in drafting to make a living, and then continue on to architecture or engineering.

Don noted that drafting was an area that someone could make a six-figure income with an AAS. Auto Cad and Microstation were important skills. Ken said large companies would support the AAS and asked what could they do for the future? Jacob said that the certificate was enough for his company. Victoria said that if the AAS was considered again, the major core requirements of the AAS would be the same courses in the certificate so that it would be stackable and lead to the AAS. Dan McCall reminded the committee that the AAS was not an option at this time, and that the certificate needed to be reviewed and voted on.

Jacob said that the certificate needed to emphasize mechanical not architectural, with pipe drafting, Auto Cad, Microstation I and II, and mechanical being most important. Ken wanted to know if drafting could be combined with East Campus courses like surveying, electrical, or mechanical. Victoria reminded the committee to send in their requirements and other courses they may be interested in for student skills. Ken said that there might be other groups of students at AC on East Campus that need drafting courses (mentioned electrical, surveying, and engineering).

Dan McCall said the certificate courses would be night courses. There was discussion of 8 week versus 16-week courses, but no conclusions or preferences were determined. The committee wondered if students that worked 40 hours a week could fit in the courses at night. Julie said that students needed more hands on time in classes "driving" the software rather than lecture. Dan McCall wondered if students would have time to absorb skills in an 8-week course. Dan Ferguson explained the success rates of 8-week courses, but that some skills course may not fit into 8 weeks. Victoria explained that each 8 week session the student only would take two courses, and would have more time to concentrate on less subjects, and that 8 weeks worked very well for lecture courses. Victoria asked the committee to consider their preference of 8 or 16 weeks and to let us know.

Courses for the new proposed certificate were discussed. Dan McCall noted that there was a good percentage of students in architectural drafting, and that to leave out architectural drafting courses in the certificate would hurt enrollment. Don and Jacob said that most of their needs were in mechanical and pipe drafting – more 3D models. There was discussion by Julie and Ann that technical drafting should also be included to teach student basic drafting principles, and the committee agreed. Victoria said that the 8 proposed courses worked out well for a 2-semester plan, but that if there were more important courses needed, to let us know. The committee agreed to review the certificate through Tuesday of next week (Tuesday, Nov. 3) and send in comments for revisions. Then Victoria would send out any revisions of the proposed certificate out to the committee for an email vote.

The committee encouraged recruiting in local high schools. Many students don't know about drafting jobs, and that they can get started with a high paying job in this area. Victoria noted that Dan Ferguson's idea of converting our high school articulation agreements to dual credit courses would be a great way to recruit. The committee explained that students need to be aware of the high demand for drafters in this area and the high pay in pipe drafting and mechanical drafting industry.

Janice Johnson said she was disappointed that interior architecture was going away, since her business depended on grads from our program. Janice also noted that we needed to consider whom we are recruiting – high school students versus full time workers for night classes. Dan McCall said that night courses filled very well.

Mike and Don said that Zachry designers were making more money than the engineers. The committee said they would have to go out of state or out of this area to find other drafting programs graduating qualified graduates. There are no other drafting programs in this area that meet their needs, and the nearest programs are in Dallas or Denver. Don said that Zachry might be able to help with funding. Dan McCall noted that money was also needed to replace lab computers that can't run required software. Victoria asked Dan McCall if the computers were on the replacement schedule, but Dan McCall said that the lab computers were past due on the replacement schedule.

Some discussion continued on the proposed certificate, and the committee agreed to send Victoria comments and suggestions on the certificate as well as other requested information by Tuesday of next week (Nov. 3). Victoria agreed to send the committee links to the Drafting AAS and drafting courses to help them review other possible courses for the proposed certificate.

8. Adjourn

Dan Ferguson and Victoria thanked the committee for their support. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

9. Addendum:

Julie Sutton's "take-aways" from the advisory committee meeting are as follows:

The advisory board has had good experiences hiring AC graduates and is very interested revitalizing the program through a recovery plan based on making the best of our current situation and growing a future for an associate degree program. There seemed to be a consensus that there would be not only jobs for future AC graduates, but well-paying jobs.

Comments indicated that the recovery plan should include plans for recruiting, current and future staffing, equipment and software management among other things. Board members are willing to assist with recommendations for instructional resources, provide data to decision makers, and become involved in the recovery of an associate degree program.

Members indicated they would like to see more recruiting efforts that inform future students about lesser known local job possibilities within the field of drafting beyond Architecture which is more known. The board would like students to have experience in AutoCAD, Microstation and an Architectural Drafting programs such as Chief Architect so they may submit job applications to a variety of employers.

Current "drafting" practices are commonly based on creating 3D/Solid Models of products. 2D plans can be generated directly from these 3 dimensional models for manufacturing, production and installation processes. Students need a knowledge of how to create both the models and the plans derived from them. Individual employers will generally teach employees their own proprietary or specialized business practices and knowledge.

*Victoria Taylor, Chair Visual Arts + Design
- Donna Guter has retired*