

Truck Driving Academy Advisory Board Meeting

March 22, 2018

Amarillo College East Campus

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approve previous year minutes
3. Elect vice-committee chair
4. Old business
 - Third-party testing
 - Insurance requirement for entry-level drivers
 - Night class
5. Discussion concerning program curriculum
6. Discussion concerning equipment and facilities
7. Discussion concerning budget

Present from AC:

Jerry Terry, Cindy Miller, Rusty Dillon, David Hall, Sheri Myers

Present from Trucking Industry:

Aaron King (Dee King Trucking), Dale Hunt (Werner), Joe Green (Kimrad), Jim Smith (City of Amarillo), Steve Lapp (Fairly Group Ins), Mark Miller (MT Compliance), Ricky Nutt (Schwerman), Jerry Edmunds (), Al Plexico (representing Mac Johnson, Roth Products of Texas)

Summary of Meeting

I. Meeting called to order at 12:01 pm. Jerry Terry welcomed everyone and stated that Wade Black, committee chair, was not able to attend. Aaron King made a motion that Jerry Terry conduct the meeting in his absence. Motion was seconded.

II. Introductions were made by going around the room with each person in attendance stating both their name and place of employment.

III. Last year's minutes (March 30, 2017) were read and each item discussed.

- New software. Classroom content is now located online via Blackboard.
- Evening class. Every night class has been full.
- FMCSA compliance. Amarillo College is already in full compliance for guidelines effective February 7, 2020.
- All drivers must complete training through a FMCSA registered entry-level driver training provider to obtain a commercial driver license. Industry will no longer be able to train their own drivers unless they have an accredited program and are registered by the FMCSA. Amarillo College trains 4 percent of the CDL drivers coming out of Amarillo. Amarillo College is doing all that can be done; our classes are full and we are utilizing every piece of equipment and every resource.

- Amarillo College is now a third-party test site for Department of Public Safety driving tests. This has helped the DPS with their backlog, has benefitted our students and has made it more cost effective for us to train students.

IV. A vice-chairperson is needed for the Advisory Committee to work with substitute for the chairperson. Nominations were accepted from the floor. Sally Noyce (not present) was nominated; motion by Aaron King, second by Joe Green, vote unanimous.

V. Student learning outcomes. The curriculum is changing to an eight-week academic course, 16 credit hours. One reason for this change is that Workforce Solutions will not be able to fund as many students as they have in the past and a longer, academic course should create more funding options for our students. A pathway will be available to other courses of study including an Associate Degree. Learning objectives for each of the seven classes was reviewed and come straight out of the Workforce Education Course Manual. Motion to accept- Dale Hunt, second – Steve Lapp, motion carried.

VI. Equipment and facilities. Each tractor and trailer was reviewed for condition, use and future plan. Committee members expressed concern about the age of some equipment, especially tractor. Committee members discussed the hazardous road conditions present on the East Campus. There is concern over the damage that large potholes inflict on equipment.

VII. Budget. 2018 review. 1st and 2nd motion, motion carried.

VIII. Perkins Performance Indicators. David Hall, assistant dean explained the history and criteria of Perkins. AC receives \$577,000. The addition of Truck Driving to academic will improve the college completer and performance numbers.

IX. New business.

- Feedback of driver quality of Amarillo College students. Employers are impressed by the types of questions our students ask and by their performance as drivers. Werner hires on a monthly basis. Werner classifies our school as “P1”, this designation is one of the highest and means that our students go directly to their finishing program and rarely need instructor training. An advisory committee member shared their experience as a recruiter at one of our job fairs. The feeling was that our students were well-prepared and asked pertinent questions.
- Our classes end with a job fair. Dale Hunt, Werner, said he preferred one-on-one in the classroom. Committee members were urged to participate.
- Interns. Jerry Terry shared information from the NAPFTDS conference about a government training program called FasPort intern program.
- Program suggestions. Committee members shared concerns that the number of students would not meet available job openings. This was of particular concern with an eight-week program. Instead of turning out 20 students every 6 weeks there would only be 20 students every 8 weeks.
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Meeting Adjourned at 1:26 pm. Tour of the facilities after meeting.