

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

PROGRAM COMMITTEE NAME:		Welding Technology	
CHAIRPERSON:			
MEETING DATE:	3-Dec-19	MEETING TIME: 3:00 p.m.	MEETING PLACE: East Campus - Manufacturing Education Center, Room 104
RECORDER:	Debra Russell	PREVIOUS MEETING:	15-Feb-19

COMMITTEE MEMBERS			
List all members of the committee, then place an X in the box left of name if present			
NAME	TITLE	EMPLOYER INFO	PHONE
Bobby Nemode	Foreman	Excel Machinery	(806) 335-9017
Greg Hudspeth	Vice President	City Machine and Welding	(806) 358-7293
Karyn Pierce	Director, Career & Technical	Amarillo ISD	(806) 326-1305
Kasey Kuriyama	Operations Foreman	Cactus Varied Industries	(806) 335-9470
Kevin Kennedy	Account Manager	Westair/Praxair	(806) 678-3103
Kevin Newton	Production Superintendent	Multiple Systems Inc	(806) 676-3547
X Matt Podzemny	Owner/Project Engineer	TEEMS Manufacturing	(806) 672-4912
Matt Smart	Sales Manager	B & J Welding Supply	(806) 418-2433
X Shain Rhode	Fabricator	Multiple Systems Inc	(806) 206-8404
Wayne Johnson	Supervisor	Excel Machinery	(806) 335-9017
Will Winborne	Welding Instructor	Amarillo ISD - Palo Duro	(806) 326-2487

EX-OFFICIO'S PRESENT			
X Claudia Arnold	Advisor, Technical Education	Amarillo College	(806) 371-5535
X David Hall	Associate Dean, Technical Education	Amarillo College	(806) 335-4309
X Debra Russell	Administrative Specialist, Tech Ed	Amarillo College	(806) 335-4390
X Johnny Sims	Instructor, Welding Technologies	Amarillo College	(806) 335-4264
X Greg Harrison	Instructor, Welding Technologies	Amarillo College	(806) 335-4210
X Dr. Kim Hays	Chair, Manufacturing Tech Dept	Amarillo College	(806) 335-4366

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION DISCUSSION INFORMATION	RESPONSIBILITY
Old Business:	No old business	
Continuing Business:	No continuing business	
New Business:		
Welcome / Introductions		
Curriculum Decisions:		
Program Curriculum & Status		
Other:		
Open Discussion		

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS		DISCUSSION
Old Business:	No old business	
Continuing Business:	No continuing business	
New Business:		
Welcome / Introductions	David Hall opened the meeting with a welcome and all attendees introduced themselves.	
Program Curriculum and Status	<p>The last change to the Welding curriculum was to change the basic Welding Fundamentals certificate from 15 credit hours to 18 credit hours. It was explained that credit hours for an award have to be over 16 hours to be eligible for financial aid. Seven students have just finished the night program and will graduate this semester. Also this semester, eight new students started the night program and ten started the day program. It was mentioned that there have been several good female students that have completed the program but most of the companies said they do not have any female employees.</p>	
Open Discussion	<p>Multiple Systems reported they are not looking for any new welders as they are a small shop, however they are looking for a fabricator. Greg mentioned fabrication skills are taught in the Blueprint Reading and Sketching class as well as both Layout & Fabrication classes. He showed one of the projects that students fabricate and make. Kevin and Shain from Multiple Systems explained that they give welding tests to all applicants. Testing includes skills on stick (arc welding) and TIG (gas tungsten arc welding) on stainless and black steel material and applicants must set the machines themselves without help. Greg explained that students learn TIG by welding coupons in four different positions on tee, lap joint and butt weld. They start on 14 gauge and work up to 3/8" plate and must weld in different positions. Kevin said the biggest problem they have is getting employees to come to work. Greg reported that the classes are set up like work. Students are graded for attendance and activity throughout the class period as well as the projects they turn in. Matt from Teens Industrial said business is slow as it is the end of the year. He agreed with others that he also has a hard time finding a good fabricator. He said he has a problem just finding applicants who can read a tape measure correctly. Kevin mentioned that they train new employees by sometimes pairing the seasoned welders along with the young welders to help them learn.</p> <p>David asked if there are any type of certifications that the Welding students need to have when they finish their program at AC. All industry members agreed it's not the paperwork that is important, it's the skills and the demonstration of having those skills when applicants take the pre-hire testing.</p> <p>Matt mentioned he had taken some Welding classes several years ago. He asked if there is ever a class that goes from the blueprint stage to production when all skills are combined to build the project. Greg explained the steps that students go through to complete a fabrication project and the grading criteria. Greg said that students only have enough time in the class to draw up one project, cut it out and then put it together. Currently, students do not get any experience on stainless steel because of ventilation issues in the labs but the skills to weld on stainless are taught on black steel. It was also pointed out that while most of the class time is spent in the shop, there is no time to teach on cast iron or aluminum. Johnny reported that students are taught how to set up welding machines and then learn by having to adjust them when changes are made. David mentioned maybe industry members could evaluate student projects in order for students to see the standards as set by industry. It was also suggested that students visit industry so they can see what is being made by the companies.</p>	

It was suggested that there needs to be more exposure to actual manufacturing so students produce something that actually functions. Matt said that maybe companies could be more involved by sending material/projects for the students to work on and then the companies grade them.

David questioned if members thought it was a good idea to keep the accelerated day program because of the faster pace of learning. It has shown to have a much higher attrition rate. Some discussion but no specific answer was given at this point.

Matt inquired what the companies can help with. David said that students need more opportunities for work-based learning where they can go to the companies and learn there. It was brought up that insurance is a big issue for allowing students in the industry shops. David explained there is a project in process to have insurance coverage for students. It was suggested maybe a co-op situation could take place where students could get training but at the same time get credit to complete their program.

There was a discussion about the capacity of the welding classes. Greg reported that a class of eight to ten students was a good sized class but more than that is hard to handle. He also explained that students learn basics but there is no time to teach any specialty welding. Matt suggested that Amarillo companies get together to come up with an idea for an incentive to help get better students in the classes. The idea of a good scholarship might possibly help students to cover costs of taking the program. It was mentioned that it costs between \$7,000-\$9,000 to complete the Welding degree and half of that cost is materials. Both companies offered scrap metal that could perhaps help with student material costs. Matt agreed that all the companies would benefit from the success of AC's program. David explained that AC has funds for scholarships but it is difficult to get students to complete the applications so donations of metal could possibly be the better idea.

Kevin said it was very hard for Multiple Systems to take any apprentices because they do so many different things and nothing consistently every day. He did say that if there are good Welding students, they can give them a test and if they do well, he will endorse them to other employers to help them find a job.

There was some discussion about credit hours of the program. All members were asked to look at the curriculum, course descriptions and rotation handouts that they received to give feedback about any changes they see that might be needed. David emphasized that changes can be made to the curriculum to add class time or skills that are needed. Most students that come through the program are on financial aid so that also dictates some specifics about credit hours. There was also some discussion about marketing for the Welding program. David explained that AC can only advertise in the service area of nine counties.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m..

Recorder Signature:

Robert J. Ruane

Date: December 16, 2019

Next Meeting: Tentatively Spring 2020