

PROGRAM COMMITTEE NAME:		Aviation Maintenance Advisory Committee			
CHAIRPERSON:	Terry Smith				
MEETING DATE:	8/4/17	MEETING TIME:	3:00pm – 4:00pm	MEETING PLACE:	AC East Campus Academic Career Center, room 110
RECORDER:	Rebecca Archer	PREVIOUS MEETING:		4/28/16	
COMMITTEE MEMBERS					
List all members of the committee, then place an X in the box left of name of those present					
NAME	TITLE	EMPLOYER INFO	PHONE	EMAIL	
X Jim Uselton	Owner/pilot	Angel Flight	806.223.8449	jim@jimuselton.com	
Rodney Halcom	Technical Training	Bell Helicopter Textron	806.467.4257	rhalcom@bh.com	
X Kyle Washburn		Bell Helicopter Textron			
X Joshua A Collier	President	Coyote Flight Center	806.335.9763	jcollieracoyoteflight.com	
Travis Lamance	President	English Field Aviation	806.595.0330		
Steve Moore	Quality Assurance Manager	Leading Edge Aviation Services	806.335.2616	smoore@leacorp.com	
Richard Brakey	Private Pilot	Retired (Bell Helicopter)	806.584.0443	rb47@suddenlink.net	
Bob Dempsey		Texas Air & Space Museum	806.662.5823	info@texasairandspacemuseum.org	
Ron Fernuik		Texas Air & Space Museum	806.662.5823	info@texasairandspacemuseum.org	
Danita McAnally		Texas Air & Space Museum			
EX-OFFICIO'S PRESENT					
X Terry Smith	Aviation Maintenance Program Coordinator	Amarillo College	806.335.4343	tlsmith27@actx.edu	
X Rebecca Archer	Aviation Maintenance Program Secretary	Amarillo College	806.335.4211	rcharcher@actx.edu	
X Megan Elkner	Dean of Technical Education	Amarillo College	806.335.4352	meelkner@actx.edu	
X Jim Faustina	Aviation Maintenance Instructor	Amarillo College	806.335.4381	j0451071@actx.edu	
X Ty Williams	TE Bookstore	Amarillo College	806.335.4228	t0111129@actx.edu	

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS	DISCUSSION
Introductions were made and Terry Smith welcomed and thanked everyone for their attendance.	
Terry referred to the minutes from our last meeting and told the committee that we are looking into the possibility of offering Continuing Education Courses for Military Veterans as many of those hired by our Industry partners are Veterans. He feels that it would be beneficial to both the Veteran and the prospective employers to help those with an Aviation related MOS prepare for their written and oral/practical exams needed for FAA certification. However the FAA is finding that these veterans are not prepared for civil aviation. This is where we could be of assistance in preparing them for the civilian side of things. They would not need all of the classes we offer, just a few 20 hour CE classes to fill in the gaps. ie: General, Airframe, and Powerplant especially on reciprocating engines. Another area that he and his faculty see a need for continued education is for the owner/operator – pilot. He estimated that we have over 1500 private owner operators within a couple of hundred miles of Amarillo. They need current skills in preventative maintenance of their aircraft. This is an untapped market for us.	
Regarding offering Continuing Education Courses, more recently, Terry has been talking to Joshua Collier, owner of Coyote Flight Training Center here in Amarillo about the possibility of partnering with him to offer classes through AC to help prepare a student for his pilot's license. Josh mentioned that the classes that we are already wanting to offer for private owner/pilots would not only help the pilots, but would foster area businesses as well. Coyote has been working on getting to the point where they can offer a 141 certificate for flight training. They are currently a part 61 school. They are expecting to have part 141 certification by December 2017. One of the benefits of this certification is that they can accept Veterans who only need to build on their training in order to obtain a pilot's license. They would have to get their private rating before coming to the school, but could then work toward their instruments, commercial and instructor ratings. He would like to see about working with Amarillo College to offer some classes, small steps at first, perhaps an aerodynamics course and eventually offer a career path. Megan Eikner, Dean of Technical Education at Amarillo College agreed, as did Terry Smith, Aviation Maintenance Program Coordinator. This would have to be separate from our 147 school, but we will definitely look into the matter in the near future.	
On another topic, Mr Smith said that the curriculum for the AMT part 147 schools is archaic at best. We are still using WWII technologies. For instance, welding, and dope & fabric, which is only seen on vintage aircrafts and would probably never be used by our students in the industry. We still have to teach those subjects, because we are governed by the FAA. The FAA is now proposing that 147 schools start teaching advanced curriculums. This would mean platform specific training. Terry believes that this is an industry driven change. The problem would be deciding which platform(s) we would teach, there is no way we could teach them all. This new proposal has not yet cleared the FAA, but if it does, we will have to make changes to our curriculum here at AC, and would probably do away with the courses mentioned above. We would also need some new training aids. In preparation for this, we have been acquiring training aids from Avotek to familiarize our students with troubleshooting. Terry did mention that when the FAA puts out an NPR, you can send in objections to it and he gladly did so. He reasoned that by law, industries have to offer platform specific training for their individual platforms to their maintenance and quality personnel. He feels like they might be trying to get the schools to do this training for them to lessen their load. He said that even if they had the training before going to the industry, industry would still be required by law to have training for their personnel. Mr. Collier did say that while he agreed that an entire course on welding or dope & fabric were not necessary, he felt that touching on those subjects would be of some benefit. Terry said, if the changes in curriculum did come down and those courses were discarded, we would probably pick them up as a CE course instead. We will just have to wait and see what the FAA decides to do.	

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Mr. Smith inquired of the attendees about the employment needs in the industry. He said he spoke with Bell Helicopter about what kinds of training their personnel needed. Kyle Washburn with Bell said that they were just needing applicants. He said that their retention is good and their voluntary separation is down, but their challenge right now is Congressional spending. He said over the next 3 years, they will have pockets of time where they will need 15-20 people to fill spots to complete a government contract this year, maybe 30-40 the following year. He also said that they have several employees who are getting ready to retire which would create a need for new-hires. Terry asked him about the skill sets of the individuals coming to Bell from our program. Mr. Washburn said that the employees that he is getting from Amarillo College are managing very well with the skill sets they have acquired here. He mentioned that the graduate skills are far better than those of the military veterans that he has seen. He feels that is the case because we are so specific with Bell curriculum and are working with Bell to insure that we turn out a useable products as far as our graduates are concerned. He commented that he thinks we are doing a really good job.

Megan verified with Mr. Washburn that Bell is still guaranteeing an interview to our graduates. Terry brought out that we have aligned our Aerospace Manufacturing program with the Aviation Maintenance program so that all of the students going through either the Aerospace Certificate or Associates program are sitting through the same FAA mandated classes that the Aviation Maintenance students are taking. This gives the student a more rounded understanding of the skill sets that Bell is looking for. Terry asked Kyle, "If one of our Aerospace graduates comes in to interview with you and you do not have an opening, or you do not choose to hire him/her, how beneficial is an Aerospace Certificate or Associate degree compared to an Airframe and Powerplant certification? Would the A&P program be more appropriate for your hires? He mentioned that we are looking at putting the Aerospace and Aviation programs under one umbrella. Megan stated that we are looking at how we can get the Bell folks the graduates that they are needing while getting our students their A&P at the same time. She asked Kyle if that would help them. Kyle responded that over the past 5 years or so, things have changed at Bell. He said that in the past an employee's degrees or certifications were not as important as their skills. Now however, things have changed significantly and their employees are going back to school to earn undergraduate degrees while working full time. He said that if we could help the students earn a degree, before coming to them, that would be highly beneficial to them. Terry asked how we could align our course offerings with Bell employee needs. He mentioned that we have scheduled night classes specifically for Bell employees, went over and recruited at Bell, and yet no one attended. He inquired of Mr. Washburn how we could change things so that they would take advantage of the opportunity given. Kyle said perhaps we could break the classes down into smaller chunks. Full-time employees have a hard time being full-time students as well. Terry reminded him that we are bound by FAA guidelines for the classes and we could not shorten them. Kyle said they were working on a 4/10s schedule now which would allow them Friday/Saturday/Sunday off, but this is up for debate and things change so often out at Bell. Kyle suggested offering courses that would allow a student to work towards a Bachelors degree at another University, there would be more interest.

Terry suggested to the committee that we depend on donations to have equipment to train our students for industry and that they might consider donating equipment, funds or offering internships. There was some discussion on this.


Mr. Smith talked a little bit about the advertising for our program and new facilities. He extended the opportunity to industry and private pilots to come out and exhibit their aircraft here on East Campus.

The meeting was adjourned and all in attendance were given a tour of the new facilities.

Chairperson Signature:



Date:



Next Meeting: TBD