



Computer Aided Design Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

*Date | time 11/12/2017 | 6:00PM in Room A 1407
Meeting Called to Order by Matt Feuerborn at 6:05pm*

In Attendance

Ali Maher—Truss Designer, R & D Thiel
John Moluf—AEC, NIU
Kurt Wolter—Tech Teacher, Rochelle Township High School/Dual Credit Instructor
Ken Stroud—Manufacturing Engineer, Nippon Sharyo/Adjunct Instructor
Tarryn Thaden—Owner, Tarryn T Design
Shawn VanKempen—Owner, William E. Hanna Surveyors
Charles Watson—Project Manager, Cain Millwork

Kishwaukee College Members Present:

Matt Feuerborn—Dean of Career Technologies, KC
Joanne Kantner—Vice President of Instruction, KC
Bill Nicklas—Executive Director of Foundation, KC
LaCretia Konan—Director of Business and Training Partnerships, KC
Rick Bunton—CAD Instructor, KC
Brianna Hooker—Administrative Assistant to Instruction, KC

Introductions and Congratulations

Matt thanks everyone in attendance for their commitment to KC and the CAD program specifically.
Congratulations to Tarryn for winning the DeKalb Chamber Athena Award last month. Tarryn has been on the advisory committee for 22 years.

Purpose of Meeting Announcement

Joanne announces state trends for advisory committee meetings is emphasis on employer-driven meetings, rather than college-driven. It is important for employers to inform college personnel on industry needs/trends so we can best prepare our students for the workforce.

Projected Employment Needs

Charles reports that Cain Millwork is currently two engineers short; the company has had to outsource drawings recently. The industry needs are more than just drafting, programming (CNC) knowledge is important as well. Education focus should be on integration. Patrick, a recent program student has been hired at Cain Millwork and he is doing really well although he is working more on the manufacturing side.

Tarryn asks Charles if the program seemed to meet the needs based on the abilities of Patrick? Charles replies that Patrick had a great entry-level base which is exactly what is expected.

Ali reports having two recent program graduates working at R & D Thiel and is happy with them.

Shawn reports great need for drafters. He tried to hire last year and had great difficulty. Land surveying is in 2D so he could utilize a beginner intern. There is a demand for 3D on the civil engineering side.

Charles sees many job openings in CAD as the industry is seeing a lot of retirement.

Shawn believes the money is there for drawing people into the field. Many drafters are paid almost as much as civil engineers. Many engineers however, are doing their own drafting.

Solid Professor Report

Rick is currently using Solid Professor this semester in CAD 210 and will be using next semester as well.

Currently waiting on IT to install some software for it. Overall, the program is working really well and the students are responding well to it as well.

Kurt's 2nd year high school students are using Solid Professor as well. May need a Prior Learning Assessment since incoming students from Rochelle should be proficient in the program. Kurt would like to see a Career Pathway for him to show high school students. It should highlight how the courses they are taking in high school translate to college and eventually into the workplace.

Training Levels of New Employees—Are needs being met?

Ali explains that some on-the-job training is always necessary because companies all use different programs and have different ways of doing things. An imperative skill for incoming employees to possess is the ability to work with a few different programs.

Bill asks Ali if recent graduates/hires would be able to meet with customers or how long does it take to get them ready for that? Ali replies in her company, the Service Department meets with customers so on the CAD-side, there isn't a need.

Charles reports having taken Patrick into the field and finds great value in drafters knowing what the field looks like and how the things they are designing are working.

Shawn finds great value in field experience as well.

Tarryn asks how/if we communicate to other community employers who are not on our committee and also about our "region" for recruitment. Matt is interested in exploring relationships with others who may be interested in hiring our graduates and to please send people our way if you, as industry members, know of anyone. Joanne expands on the difference between recruiting students vs employers. There are state guidelines about where we can recruit prospective students. However, when recruiting employers, it is important to ensure that our local community employers' needs are the top priority but anyone who may hire our graduates can partake in our advisory committee efforts.

Kurt suggests development of a college database to determine industry needs in the area. LaCretia and Joanne explain that we receive information from IDS from the state however, there is often outdated information since the industry needs can change quickly. Currently, employer surveys are given at job fairs. LaCretia emphasizes on importance of our advisory committee feedback from employers as being a necessary part of this process. Kurt suggests that all committee members be engaged with the goals of the program and recruiting efforts.

Enrollment and Outreach Discussion

Shawn asks about current enrollment status and Matt reports that is enrollment is low.

Charles believes that part of the issue is the focus on 4-year schools/degrees and that is hurting the trades. The committee agrees that entry-level employees in this industry do not need a 4-year degree.

Bill thinks that the financial argument and accessibility sells. If industry pay is well and students can get through the program in two years with minimal financial investment, that can be sold. However, it seems many students seem to think they are getting less by not starting at a 4-year school. Bill thinks recruiting “athletics-style” may be necessary.

Tarryn thinks we should ask high school students what they think CAD careers look like so we can correct misinterpretations. Many students may be surprised that it is so much more than a “desk job.”

Rick reports 10/14 graduates from last year have responded to surveying and most were finding jobs between minimum wage and \$14-\$15/hour. Starting at \$40,000 per year was by far the outlier so he disagrees with really being able to sell the financial aspect.

Ken speaks to starting out with low pay but consistently gaining earnings. His job consists of about 60% field work/ 20% design. Overall, Ken agrees with Rick especially as many larger companies pay much less and that is where many students are hired. Graduates need to be cautious of selling themselves short as well.

John thinks, as a committee, we could do a “backwards” job search with the intention of finding employers to reach out to.

LaCretia attended the recent event at Nippon Sharyo. Also presents the Incumbent Worker Training flyer.

Matt announces that we conduct the Heavy Metal Tour each Fall semester to high school students. Tarryn thinks we could capitalize on having employers at these types of events as well. Rick thinks for this to be successful, someone captivating is necessary to keep the attention of students.

Industry Ideas for Increasing Enrollment

Ali asks how close our relationship is with DeKalb High School. Matt and Joanne confirm they will be meeting with the new Superintendent of the District tomorrow and the intent of the meeting is to explore Dual-Credit opportunities.

Shawn thinks that considerable work needs to be done with high school counselors to convince them that 2-year degrees are viable options for many students as a lot of focus seems to be on 4-year degrees.

Joanne expands that current research is actually proving parents to be the greatest influence on the education that students pursue. Guidance counselors are consistently ranked #3 or 4 for influence.

John asks about possibilities of essentially ‘renting space’ at local high schools. Joanne talks about our new Upward Bound grant here at KC and this grant will provide the opportunity to have KC employees at DHS two days per week.

Charles reminds that the aging workforce provide a potential demographic to recruit from. As the workforce ages, many field workers may be interested in moving into more office-type work to finish their careers and some additional CAD training may be just the thing they need to transition.

Proposed Changes to Curriculum and Program Updates

Matt and Rick confirm that software changes are in place this academic year.

CAD 210 proposal from SP17→ Matt reports that we have not moved forward on this but wants to thank the Foundation and to Ken for their contributions to the Engineering Bootcamp this past summer. The students are currently doing a seminar course.

CAD 231 recommendation from SP17→ Matt reports this item is on hold.

CAD 259 Course Deletion from SP17→ Committee agrees to delete course from curriculum.

Integrated Manufacturing Career Pathways Degree Option

Matt reports that due to low enrollment within the programs, there are currently no full time faculty in CAD or Manufacturing (MT) and proposes an Integrated Manufacturing Career Pathways Degree option which would include core classes in MT/CNC/CAD/Electronics/Welding and offer emphasis options in each area.

Tarryn thinks integration is always a great goal however, it is important to determine if students would even be interested in this type of degree.

Charles suggests another approach in asking recent graduates if they felt a program model like this would have been beneficial for them.

Ali and John confirm that name of degree alone is not helpful in hiring graduates and would still need an outline of the prospective employees' knowledge and skills.

Industry Standards or Certifications Update

Ken thinks the SolidWorks Professional Certification may be worth investigating because the certification exam is quite difficult. May be able to offer some sort of prep course.

Foundation Report—Bill Nicklas

Bill announces new Achievement Award for the upcoming school year. The Foundation does two scholarship rounds each year.

Next Meeting

Creation of Standing Meeting Dates to be held on the First Wednesday of March and November moving forward.

Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 6:00pm at Kishwaukee College
Meeting Adjourned at 7:20pm