



Welding Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date | time 11/13/2017 | 6:00PM in Room A 1411

Meeting Called to Order by Zachery Caccia

In Attendance

Members Present:

Zach Miller—Pipefitter, Mechanical Inc. and KC Adjunct Instructor

Dave Elliott—Teacher, DeKalb High School

Chuck Bergsmith—Owner, Sauber Manufacturing

Gene Fogle—Coordinator, DeKalb-Ogle Workforce Development Consortium

KC Presence:

Zachery Caccia—Welding Technology Faculty, KC

Matt Feuerborn—Dean of Career Technologies, KC

Bernie Pupino—Coordinator 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

Brianna Hooker—Administrative Assistant to Instruction, KC

Welcome and Introduction

Joanne welcomes everyone and thanks them for their dedication to Kish. Reviews the Advisory Committee purpose; it is to be employer-driven so the College can best understand the needs of the industry. We need the industry telling us what we need to be doing to best prepare graduates.

Fall 2017 Enrollment Report and Review of SP17 Minutes

Zachery reports that the Welding Technology enrollment is slightly down from Fall 2016. Kish as whole is down well.

Joanne reports that we are currently looking better for Spring 2018 than we were at this point last year.

Review of Minutes from SP17. No editions needed.

Industry Trends/Potential Training Needs

Chuck reports that within the past 6-8 months stainless steel TIG welding has picked up in the industry.

Zachery confirms to committee that stainless steel TIG welding is included in our current curriculum so that is good to hear.

Joanne asks committee about potential training needs. Chuck reports great retention of employees so there is minimal current need for hiring new welders. The greater need is for new training and training on new materials.

Zach Miller reports a great demand in specialty pipe. Considerable number of retirements happening now and projected for the next 5 years. Also reports new building development in the Northern part of the state.

Bernie asks about the size of pipe being welded, what do we need to expose our students to? Zach notes a great variety. Zachery Caccia is confident that our equipment fits the training needs.

Zachery Caccia reports having 3 recent graduates (past couple years) to Chicago Pipefitters, 2 to Rockford. There is a labor need. However, apprenticeships are very competitive.

Bernie reports consistent employers reaching out to him for welders. Most employers will be doing some on the job training.

Dave hears layout work is the most common complaint among employers. Entry level welders seem to have trouble being proficient at layout work.

Curriculum Report

Zachery Caccia reminds committee that new courses for the curriculum were approved last year however, this is currently at a standstill due to the limited lab space. Matt says not to give up hope yet.

Zachery tells committee that WT 133 Intro to Fabrication is currently offered as an elective. Asks committee if it should be a certificate requirement? It would be a 2credit/3 contact our course. Zach Miller believes it is a valuable and necessary course and that it should be a certificate requirement.

Zach Miller makes a motion to confirm WT 133 as a certificate requirement. Dave seconds the motion. No opposition.

American Welding Society Accreditation

Zachery Caccia reports that Kish is now an American Welding Society accredited test facility. Accreditation was obtained last year. 9/11 successful testers out of the first session. 12 certificates were obtained by 12 students. This is a personal credential so it follows the student once they graduate.

Joanne asks out of the people who took the test, are they employed? Zachery has a difficult time maintaining contact with graduates however, all of the graduates he has kept in contact with are working.

Internship Opportunities

LaCretia asks about internship opportunities. Zachery Caccia explains that internships have previously been discussed as a required part of the curriculum however, the industry has largely not been on board with ensuring students internship opportunities. Zachery would love to provide the opportunity to students but we have not had success in the past.

Zachery explains a benefit of making WT 133 a certificate requirement is that the course is very project-heavy so it will help to provide students with some "real world" experience.

Industry Updates

Committee discusses closure of Caterpillar in Aurora as well as Nippon Sharyo in Rochelle. The Toyota plant is not coming to our area.

Bernie believes the big thing people are looking for right now is maintenance workers.

Recruitment Efforts

Joanne asks committee for advice on how to get more students into the program.

Dave reports full classes every year at DeKalb High School and welcomes reps from KC anytime to come to DHS and talk to students.

Zach Miller thinks an overall push for trades is important.

Bill discusses Engineering Bootcamp and asks if we could extend this opportunity to jr/sr high school students rather than waiting until the summer after they finish high school? Does the committee think this would interest students?

Joanne thinks this is a great idea. The age of the student wouldn't be an issue for extending the Engineering Bootcamp opportunity to younger (jr/sr) high school students.

Math Pathways Discussion

Zachery and Bernie note that students tend to struggle with math. Dave confirms challenge with reading tape measures. Zachery says students are often surprised by the amount of geometry/trigonometry are involved in the field. How can we address this?

Joanne introduces idea of an Integrated Education/Training. We could offer an adult education course that would teach the math/other supportive skills outside of the program that would help prepare students for the program.

Next Meeting

Monday, April 9, 2018 at 6pm. Room TBA, Kishwaukee College
Meeting Adjourned at 7:00pm.