
October 20, 2020 at 6:00 pm | Meeting called to order by Chase Budziak at 6:05p

In Attendance

Members Present:

Brad Evenson – Automotive Technician

John Bockman – Owner - Bockman's Auto Care and Bockman's Truck and Fleet

KC Members Present:

Dr. Laurie Borowicz – President

Dr. Joanne Kantner – Vice President of Instruction

Chase Budziak – Dean of Instruction

Tim Banasiak – Instructor – Automotive Technology

Shawn Long – Instructor – Automotive Technology

Katie Macias – Administrative Assistant, Office of Instruction

Enrollment and Program Summary Data

- Chase Budziak shared College and departmental enrollment data;
 - College is down 14% for the fall 2020 semester. This is comparable to other community colleges in the area, such as Elgin, Sauk Valley, and Highland.
- 1. There were 51 unique students in courses in fall 2019 versus the 40 enrolled this fall 2020, resulting in a twenty-two percent decrease in enrollment for the fall semester. In response to COVID social distancing guidelines, we had to reduce our section seat size from twelve to eight, about a twenty five percent loss in seat capacity.
- 2. Five students completed the Associate of Science degrees, five student completed basic certificates, and four completed advanced certificates. Total of fourteen completions last year.
- 3. Department retention (94.8%) was above the college average (89%).
- 4. 96.5% of those students successfully complete the course, versus the college average of 86%.
- 5. Department classroom capacity was 69% compared to the college capacity of 76%.
- 6. In Fiscal Year 2020, the AMT program lost \$163,401. During that period there were three and a quarter faculty members teaching these courses last year compared to two in Fiscal Year 2021.

National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation Certification Update

- The program is in the middle of a review cycle and a midterm report will be due sometime during the 2021-2022 school year
- The National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation also provided institutions with a set of suggestions to ensure labs can be held remotely or simulated.

Covid Course Updates

- Faculty updated the committee about how their courses have been operating due to the pandemic.
- The schedule was revised, lectures via Zoom (synchronous), with on-campus lab activities. The plan is working and students are responding well.
- Students are scheduled to be online at specific times (synchronous) and attendance is better via zoom than on campus. They are cutting back on the lab times to keep the students safe, only covering essential items.
- Individual labs are possible now with lowered Covid caps, allowing an opportunity to try and experiment.
- Faculty have provided a consistent approach, offering synchronous at the same time live course work while also maintaining a safe amount of lab time.

Program Questions

- Chase Budziak asked the committee if they had any questions about the program, what is being done in regards to certain skills or competencies, and if the college is serving their industry appropriately
- Brad Evenson asked about increased training on electronic vehicles to prepare for increased industry need.
 - There is an elective class that is offered to students. The program tries to balance the need to provide electronic vehicle training while also helping students to grasp basic electrical skills.
 - Producing a journeyman technician in two years and skill level of students requires starting at beginning skill level.
 - John Bockman stated as a shop owner they do want journeyman technicians, but understood that they won't get those from a 2-year program like Kishwaukee College. However, he noted that Kishwaukee College graduates are prepared with a solid foundation that can be further developed on the job.
- Discussion turned to apprenticeship opportunities between local industry and Kishwaukee College.
 - Members were asked about local businesses hiring apprentices that are enrolled in the Kishwaukee College automotive program.
 - John Bockman stated that if students can be freed from class where they can come in for a half a day to work with one of our technicians or at our shop, they will really learn
 - Current schedule accommodates two options: First-year students come in three full days a week schedule and can be able to work two full eight-hour days. Second year students come in two days a week and can work three days a week eight-hour days. The schedule is set up to make an apprenticeship work at any shop
 - Internships are possible. Example is Motorworks auto shop will pay for an intern and may hire after internship.
 - John Bockman stated that Napa developed an apprenticeship program and it would be a good model to start with. The college will explore the Napa competencies and offers a great starting point.
- What is the community's capacity to serve students with internship/apprenticeship or employment after graduation?
 - John Bockman said there is a handful of shops in the Dekalb-Sycamore area that would be able to take some of the students and need to look at the entire county.
 - Shops will pay for some schooling with a commitment two years at the shop. The agreements do work.
 - Faculty mentioned competition for retention from warehouses paying more than technicians are getting paid in the auto industry.

- John Bockman stated the industry expects these students to come in for a very low starting wage and have their own complete set of tools that are expensive.
- Dr. Laurie Borowicz confirmed starting wage at Target is \$15/hour. There isn't a shortage of jobs and work study incentives help connect students to employers. She shared the Illinois Cooperative Work Study Grant the college has, which pays half the wages of the student intern/apprentice. The grant can reimburse the shop owners and may be an incentive for students to take the technician position.
 - There is a need to market this opportunity to local employers. The college will put together a piece of marketing material to give to the businesses on the advisory committee.
- The college shared the new adult completion bachelor's degree agreement with Rockford University. It transfers the automotive associate's degree to a bachelor's degree in a management field. This provides a pathway for a technician to entrepreneur/shop manager or owner.
- Meeting Adjourned.

Next Meeting

Spring 2021. Date and time to be determined.