



# MINUTES

## Automated Engineering Technology Advisory Committee Meeting

*Date / time* 4/6/2017 6:00 PM | *Meeting called to order by* Matthew Feuerborn at 6:13pm

### In Attendance

#### Members Present:

Nathan Watson—Tool and Die Maker, SK Hand Tool, LLC

David Niemi—Manufacturing Engineer, SK Hand Tool, LLC

Mike Walt—Owner, Walt LTD.

Zach Dean—Design Engineer, Walt LTD.

Ronda Kliman—Area Training Representative, U.S. Department of Labor-Office of Apprenticeship

Daniel Appleton—Production Engineer—Dawn Equipment Company

Jim Worrell—Retired Mech. Designer—KI

#### Others Present:

Peter Campbell—AET Instructor

Matthew Feuerborn—Dean of Career Technologies, Kishwaukee College

Joanne Kantner—Executive Dean of Learning Services, Kishwaukee College

LaCretia Konan—Director of Business and Training Partnerships, Kishwaukee College

Brianna Hooker—Administrative Assistant to Instruction, Kishwaukee College, Recorder

### Welcome and Introductions

Matt welcomes everyone to the meeting and thanks everyone for their participation. Everyone introduces themselves.

### SP17 Enrollment Report

SP16 Heads	SP17 Heads	Heads Change		SP16 Credits	SP17 Credits	CH Change	CH %
119	122	+3		309.0	337.0	+28.0	+9.1%

Matt reports that enrollment numbers are down considerably from our peak years in 2013-2014. Matt explains that oftentimes, we see a correlation between employment and enrollment. When people are well employed, enrollment tends to be lower. Matt believes that people are finding jobs in this field without needing the certificate/AAS degree at this time. Kishwaukee College also sees a correlation with NIU enrollment and their enrollment is down as well.

Mike Walt asks if the State budget crisis could be contributing to our lower enrollment. Matt replies that the perception of the budget crisis may be impacting enrollment slightly in general but would not have a special impact on this department specifically.

Matt reports interest in focusing on developing more employer partnerships and internship opportunities for recruiting efforts. As a college, we are investigating marketing options with limited resources.

### Approval of Minutes

Matt reports that the Fall meeting was informal and was more of a conversation with only one member present. Plan to approve Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 minutes at next meeting in Fall 2017.

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## Proposed Changes to Curriculum

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### AAS Transfer and 2+2 Agreement

Matt explains our 2+2 Agreement with NIU, where students pursuing the AAS degree can take college algebra and trigonometry instead of shop math and NIU will accept our math credits towards an engineering degree. We created this agreement because it allows students to transfer up to 90 credits to NIU (basically 3 years' worth) of credits and they could take one year of online credits to complete their B.S. degree. While we still value this agreement, it has caused many students to not pursue the AAS degree here because of the required higher math courses.

### AAS Occupational Focus Proposal

Moving the AAS degree focus toward an occupational focus would allow more students to complete an A.S. rather than a certificate. Joanne stresses that many students who are more interested in manufacturing rather than engineering are turned off by or struggle with the algebra, trigonometry, and physics requirements.

### Committee Thoughts

Daniel Appleton, a graduate of the AET program, thinks this is a step in the right direction, especially for working students.

Committee seems to understand and agree with the proposed occupational focus shift.

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## Other Curriculum Change Ideas

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Matt seeks feedback on necessity of Tool and Die course or perhaps plastic molding. Seeks feedback on industry needs. Mike states he values tool and die experience, which many people do not have. Ronda reports that tool and die is being sought again in the industry as well as CNC machinists. Nate thinks die design coursework may be valuable. Mike recommends adding packaging in somewhere as well.

Matt would like to set up a meeting with Ronda to discuss course creation/curriculum changes.

Daniel Appleton reports that Electronics is taking off at Dawn Equipment. Daniel recommends adding more CAD work to the program; the amount of basic print reading is not enough for the field. He feels that there should be more emphasis on print reading/comprehension and geometric "tolerancing." With regard to CAD, there may be more modeling than necessary and not enough 2D drawing.

Matt suggests that we may want to take a look at print reading for specific industries; as we may be trying to 'please too many masters' in one class (MT 101).

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## SK Handtool Update

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David and Nate agree that there is a lot of machine building and re-building (mechanic assembly) work going on at SK currently.

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## Walt LTD. Update

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Mike reports that automation in the industry is huge right now. Also feels that we have missed out on packaging; industry needs are growing in that area.

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## Donations

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Matt reports that Pete Campbell has secured vacuum forming and packaging donations.

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## Internship and Apprenticeship Opportunities

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Matt reports that the Illinois Manufacturing Association has reached out to us to be an educating/training part of a German model of training. Matt is seeking any companies who may be interested in pursuing that with us, such as Ideal or SK. The Illinois Manufacturing Association is a grant money holder who is working with Harper, Triton and us, along with the German-American Chamber of Commerce. This model includes a 2-3 year educational timeline and then a 2 year commitment with the employer post-education/internship period. The incentive for companies who partake in this initiative is having a clearly defined population of well-trained people.

Ronda expands further on the outlook of apprenticeships at the federal level. Under the Obama Administration, apprenticeship programs were highly supported and with the change of administration, there is always some uncertainty as to how things will change. President Trump recently spoke out to being in support of apprenticeship programs.

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## Industry Standards and Certifications

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MSSC—Manufacturing Skill Standard Council—Matt reports that this certification costs \$800 per student, for testing. This certification is cost-prohibitive for the college because that is a high expense for students to pay and the college cannot absorb the cost.

NIMS—National Institute for Metalworking Skills—Matt reports that this is a site-license which is much more affordable for the college. Matt hopes to have this certification for next academic year. With this site-license, the school would be a certified provider and our students would be credentialed upon graduation. Ronda adds that NIMS was a Grantee.

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## Manufacturing Academy

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Matt reports positive status on the Manufacturing Academy being run at Sycamore High School. There are currently 23 high school students in the academy where they are earning 4 credits in Manufacturing and 4 credits in Welding. Because it can only be run as a seminar a couple of times, Matt is working to figure out how to make it a college-credit course.

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## Open Business

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Mike seeks clarification on enrollment numbers. Matt explains that declaration data shows how many students have declared to be pursuing each degree or certificate, and enrollment data is a total count of students enrolled in each course. The number includes repeat students (i.e. one student may be enrolled in 4 classes which means the student is being counted at 4 “heads”).

Caterpillar is going to be laying off 800 people in Aurora and Mike is curious if we are going to try to market our program to that group. Matt explains that the people who live in our region, we hope to pick up however, Aurora is in Waubensee’s region and they have a manufacturing program.

Daniel reports that DAWN Equipment recently established a big contract with John Deere which has been a great business opportunity.

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## Next Meeting Date/ Creation of Standing Meetings

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Standing Meeting Date Proposal: First Thursday of October and April each year unless otherwise specified.

Next Meeting Date: 10/5/2017 at 6:00pm

Meeting Adjourned at 7:40pm.