

# MINUTES

## Aviation Advisory Committee Meeting

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*Date | time 2/23/2017 10:30 AM | Meeting called to order by Steve Durin*

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### In Attendance

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Joanne Kantner—Interim Executive Dean of Learning Services, Kishwaukee College  
Matthew Feuerborn—Dean of Career Technologies Division, Kishwaukee College  
Steve Durin—Aviation Instructor, Kishwaukee College  
Brianna Hooker—Administrative Assistant to Instruction, Recorder, Kishwaukee College  
Joel Thompson—Director of Aviation/Private Pilot, Astor Street Asset Management  
Bill Brand—Retired Commercial Pilot  
Dave Koch—CEO, AirChicago Holdings, Inc.

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### Approval of Minutes

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Review of Fall 2016 Minutes and Enrollment Data Report.  
Joel makes a motion to approve the minutes. Bill seconds the motion. Unanimously approved.

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### Aviation Program Report

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Steve reports SP17 is the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester that enrollment has not been high enough to run full aviation classes and therefore the decision has been made to change the Aviation program to inactive status.

Joanne reports the college will send a letter to any students that have been enrolled in aviation courses within the past 3-4 years to inform them that we are committed to offering classes Fall 2017 semester so these students have the opportunity to finish up any coursework they may need to finish their degree/certificates. After Fall 2017 the program will then be considered inactive, not eliminated. Aviation courses may still be offered at Continuing Education courses. Joanne also explains the ethical concern of claiming to offer an Aviation program to the community but then not having the enrollment numbers to actually run the class repeatedly.

Matt remains hopeful that we may be able to have 5-10 students enrolled for Fall 2017 which would be students “in the pipeline.”

Joel seeks clarification between credit courses and continuing education courses. Matt explains credit courses require 64 hours of instruction in order to receive college credit. Continuing Education (CE) courses are taken not for credit which allows much more flexibility (i.e. weekend intro course). Joanne explains CE courses cannot be transferred as college credit but there is the ability to articulate proficiencies to give college credit for CE courses.

Dave seeks clarification on the details regarding a program that is considered inactive. Joanne explains that a program can remain inactive for 10 years and can be re-activated at any time starting at the next academic year.

Bill is curious as to how state-funding issues could be contributing the student cost concerns within the program. Joanne explains the impact of MAP Grants not being provided however, those grants are worth \$1,600 per year so she does not believe that significantly contributes to the student cost concerns of this program considering the cost of flight training itself.

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## Program Discussion

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Dave thinks students and parents alike are often looking for a “one-stop shop” when considering aviation programs and community colleges often just cannot offer that. Schools really need a 141 Certificate to be successful.

Steve adds that 1985 was the year that many aviation programs at community colleges folded due to the GI Bill no longer covering ground work.

Bill reports that traditionally, the return on investment for aviation school would take a long time. However, due to the shortage of pilots, many airlines are starting pilots at higher wages and often paying for more training.

Joel adds that in his experience, there is a major industry shortage of pilots and co-pilots alike. Currently pilots can enter the industry making pretty good income. Bill thinks if more students realized this, they may be more willing to take on the great financial burden up front for school.

Bill discusses great strides in aviation technology/safety which is making plans even more practical and economical. He feels confident that aviation in general is growing.

Although Dave has not put much thought in this partnership, Parkland College has a fleet of planes yet feel they do not have a large enough market to put that fleet to use. If and when the college decides to activate the program again, it may be worth looking into that partnership.

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## Fall 2017 Course Offerings

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Steve reports AVF 101 and AVF 111 will be offered in Fall 2017 and will run with even one student enrollment. One elective needs to run as well, Steve and Matt have decided the meteorology course would be a good option. Committee supports this choice for an elective course.

Joanne hopes that, if supply of pilots is as short as it seems, maybe private companies will essentially start to “grow their own” and sponsor students eventually.

Dave reports there are some great programs throughout the country but it requires significant funds as well as strong marketing. In this area we have access to a great market (Chicago) with really no other close competition for flight training in the area.

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## Marketing/Recruitment

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Steve inquires about marketing/recruitment status once the program is considered inactive. Joanne explains that Aviation will be marketed through CE.

Joanne reports that there is no requirement through ICCB to hold advisory committees for an inactive program, however, if members are interested and committed, advisory committee meetings can still be held each semester or annually.

Joel ultimately feels that student funding, especially with regards to flight training, is the greatest challenge to the program’s success at this point and there doesn’t really seem to be much of a solution for that. Joel appreciates Joanne’s positive approach to and support of the program.

Matt reports the college is striving to create an annual budget that is less dependent on state aid. If and when the college receives more state funding than anticipated, it will provide the college with extra funds to put into programs such as aviation.

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## AVF Club Update

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Steve reports since there is no enrollment in aviation courses this semester there is no club activity.

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## Articulation Contacts

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No report.

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## Other Items/Announcements

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Steve presents T-shirts designed by aviation club members last semester and gives a t-shirt to each member.

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## Next Meeting

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Meeting TBA.

Joel makes a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:35am. Bill seconds the motion. Unanimously approved.