

DPT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

March 9, 2017 6:30pm

Members attending; Jim Garner, Duane Schroeder, John Hopkins, Nick Stafford, Kourtney Ranken, Bannon Fuchs, Adam Weller, Matthew Feuerborn, Joanne Kantner, Bill Nicklas, John Boesche, Don Flink, Mark Engel, and Matthew Bauer.

Call to order; The meeting began at 6:45pm with a call to order by John Boesche.

Consent Agenda; Minutes from the November 3, 2016 meeting were approved on a motion made by John Hopkins and second by Nick Stafford. John reviewed the spring 2017 enrollment results and made the observation that campus wide numbers are down, but in the Diesel department the numbers are steady. John also informed the committee that the Diesel instructors will be traveling to Johnsbury High School next week to discuss the possibility of Dual Credit. Johnsbury is currently teaching a small engines class, equipment maintenance class, and equipment operator's class.

Outstanding Student Awards; John shared with the committee the criteria that the students needed to meet, to be selected for the award, and announced the winners. Freshmen: Francisco DeLaCruz, Alex Olson, and Kourtney Ranken. Sophomores: Bannon Fuchs, Dan Jenkins, and Aaron Wolf.

Staffing: Adjunct/Full Time Instructor/Tuition Increase/Degree Hour Decrease; John announced to the committee that the Diesel department had formed a search committee and had interviewed candidates, in the fall, for a fifth full time Diesel instructor. A candidate was selected and offered the position. Unfortunately this candidate turned down the offer because the salary offer was too low. John further explained that the search committee had declared a failed search. Matt Feuerborn informed the committee that due to the lack of state funding, the college is no longer looking for a fifth full time instructor. John also informed the committee that the department had hired Kyle Szychlinski as an adjunct instructor to teach the small engines class this semester. John also told the committee that the college had hired Joe Bereckis, for the full time Diesel Power Tool Room Attendant position. Joe's background is in carpentry and mechanics and he started working for the college on February 1st due to the previous attendant taking a different position at the college. John also informed the committee that the department would be meeting with three more candidates that are interested in teaching as adjuncts for the department.

Matt Feuerborn informed the committee that the cost of tuition, college wide, would be increasing by \$10 per credit hour. This will make the cost of tuition for the fall semester \$139 per credit hour. He also told the committee that, due to the lack of state funding, the college will be implementing differential tuition for many of the higher cost Career Technology programs including Diesel Power. The new tuition for these programs will be 150% of the standard tuition. Finally he noted that the President of the college will be having sessions with the students in the following weeks to justify these increases. Bill

Nicklas reminded the committee that there are numerous scholarships available from the College Foundation and that students should be encouraged to apply.

Matt Feuerborn explained to the committee that the ICCB (Illinois Community College Board) is requiring that all A.A.S. Degree programs limit their total credit hours to 60-62. This is to ensure that the students can complete degree programs in 2 years. With the current Diesel Power degree at 72 credit hours, Matt asked the committee to help analyze the degree and help determine how to reduce the required hours. Nick Stafford suggested moving DPT 175 to a different semester. Mark Engel made the observation that moving classes did not solve the problem, but changing required classes to electives or reducing hours of certain classes is what would need to happen. The committee looked at the list of the program's classes and discussed the importance of all of the classes. Bill Nicklas suggested shortening the time of several classes. John Boesche made the observation that the students are starting out at a lower level of base knowledge and experience than ever before, and reducing class time would lower the quality of the program's graduates. Joanne suggested that maybe the program should be divided into 2 separate pathways. One focused towards on highway equipment and one focused on off highway equipment. The program could be broken down into 2 separate degrees, and students wanting to take all of the classes could graduate with 2 degrees. Duane suggested that if time were to be reduced in a class that advanced engine overhaul could be reduced because this is a task that is not performed as often anymore. John argued that this class is needed to fully understand how the diesel engine works. John Hopkins made the same recommendation for the advanced transmission class and again it was decided that it is needed to fully understand how the transmission works. Jim Garner suggested removing the second internship and only requiring the first. Adam Weller suggested reducing time in the basic fuels class. Nick Stafford suggested starting from scratch, and determining what makes the program. Several other suggestions were made and discussed. Kourtney did not want the internship reduced because she wants to have the opportunity to try 2 different places of employment. Don Flink suggested cutting the welding class out of the program. John thanked the committee for all of the ideas and told them if any more were thought of to email one of the instructors. John announced that the department's goal was to have a proposal ready for the committee at its next meeting.

Donations/Purchases; Matt Bauer announced that the department had made no new purchases but had received a monetary donation of \$3000 from Vermeer Midwest.

Skills USA; Don explained to the group what Skills USA is, and that the Diesel Program has 6 total students going to the state competition this year. 5 students will be competing in the Power Equipment Repair category and 1 in the Diesel category.

Interview Day; John explained interview day and how it incorporates into the DPT 106 class. He announced that 9 employers participated this year and asked Nick Stafford for feedback. Nick explained how he gave feedback and recommendations to each student that he interviewed. He was very pleased with the event and offered to extend the day and interview more students if needed. He also offered to lead a debriefing session in the afternoon as a large group to discuss the events of the day. Matt Feuerborn suggested an "open to the public" forum on interviewing skills.

Update Committee Directory; Mark passed around the current copy of the committee directory and asked all attendees to update or add any new information to the list for revision.

Open Discussion; Mark informed the committee of the upcoming Freshman Orientation meetings and explained their purpose. He also encouraged the committee to pass along fliers and information to anyone interested in our program. Mark made the observation of how quickly the program fills. Jim Garner suggested that the idea of the selective enrollment processes should be revisited.

Next meeting; The next meeting will be held on Thursday November 2, 2017 at 6:30pm.

Adjournment; The meeting was adjourned with a motion made by Duane Schroeder and a second from John Hopkins at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Engel