
March 31st, 2021 6:00pm Meeting called to order by Chase Budziak

In Attendance

Members Present: James Glass of Outback Machine Shop
Art Gisselle of FD Automation

KC Members Present: Chase Budziak

Ami Irmen
Dr. Laurie Borowicz
Andrew Otieno
Kurt Wolter
Cynthia Karasewski

Spring 2021 Enrollment & Financial Information

Spring 2021 enrollment and financial data presented:

- College enrollment for spring 2021 semester is down -14.4% over spring 2020 semester.
- College Online/Hybrid credits up 212.7% over spring semester.
- Electronics department program credits down -74% from spring 2020 to spring 2021.

Department Update & COVID-19 Response

- SP21 instruction primarily face-to-face lab, similar to fall. FA21 will prioritize face-to-face instruction on campus.
- Teaching Chair Ami Irmen discussed student teach-out plan during the transition to integrated AAS Technology and Manufacturing degree. She looked at ELE current students and their academic progress (degree audits). Collaborated with advising about student needs. Advising is contacting those students to switch over to new degree.

Strategic Planning & Discussion

- a. *Are the majority of your new entry-level positions filled by individuals with previous training or candidates you are training in-house?*
 - Gisselle: basic controls in Robotics are very popular and highly sought. Biggest problem is there are not enough qualified employees. He suggested outreach to companies for employment needs. The starting salary for these positions \$30k-\$40k per year.
 - Budziak: invited committee members to share via email the names of businesses who may be looking for employees.
- b. *Does the Kishwaukee College Electronics program provide the level of training that you require of new employees? Too much or too little? If there is an employer demand for electronics training, what are your recommendations for getting more students into this training pipeline?*
 - Wolter: There is a challenge of choices high school students face. Sometimes there are students who have little career direction. Suggested outreach to those students, by introducing them to employers and alumni in the field.

- Otieno: Employees want degrees or certificates that will help them stand out to employers. Suggested considering name changes if appropriate. It could help make students more intrigued to obtain the degree/certificate because they know that is what employers are searching for in a new hire. From his experience at NIU, the top three sought after qualifications seem to be robotics, PLC, and integration.
- Glass: Continued interest in a licensed electrician program.

c. *Do you have any recommendations for guest speakers, field trips, teaching resources, potential instructors, new technology? Anything new on a basic level?*

- Gisselle: Focus on robotics and machine vision.
- Otieno: Focus on PLC, HMI, and communication.

Announcements

- Parting thoughts:
 - Gisselle: Feel free to reach if anyone wants further discussion
 - Otieno: Let him know if we need any additional materials for teaching. He has lots of things to share to help out.
 - Wolter: Suggested future committee topics could include methods of exposing high school students to related career fields and academic pathways.

Next Meeting

Fall semester, Zoom location, 6:00pm