

“Electrical Construction Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes”

March 25, 2014

Called to Order 4:35 PM

Roll call: Present -Russ Penn (Chair), Dan Edman, Stan Kovarik, Scott Stenvick, Shane McMeamy, James Retka, Jody Beauchamp, Russ Lee, Mark Lothspeich. Absent – Dan Boyce, Annye Bryson, Bob Kvitne.

Old Business – Review Meeting minutes from October 29th, 2013 – Motion to approve – Russ Lee / Second – Mark Lothspeich - Minutes so approved.

Instructor Report – Stan Kovarik -1<sup>st</sup> yr Second Semester – 15 students started with 16 – one dropped – have a group of diverse ages this year High school grads to 35 & 40 year olds. Stan feels that this is a good group of students this semester

Instructor Report – Dan Edman - 2<sup>nd</sup> yr Second Semester – 18 students this semester – Have lost 2 this year – due to drops.

Classroom caps are still set at 23.

Student retention – seems to be that we are losing 1 to 2 student’s p/yr in each class – and then in the new year in the fall – the enrollment level have not been catching up with the class cap levels. Every year the class sizes are lower. The impacts on enrollment - is as well impacting funding from the state – this has a direct relationship with the funding received. Lower the student count the less the funding received.

The house project has been a hit with the students – getting the hands on is a desire of the students.

New Business:

Discussion then was held regarding the addition of another section – and just how best to attract the students into this trade field – Dan and Stan commented that school career days does bring students to the school – which are – mainly sophomore to senior students - they then visit programs that are of their interest and discuss the curriculums with the instructors – the instructors have not been out visiting the schools to promote the school – most of those efforts are done on the web site – some newspaper ads – they is also a Kiosk set up at the Columbia Mall that displays programs and general information about the school. This is located centrally in the Mall – Jim also so indicated that there has been some issues with the internet access at the location. That the unit is not work properly at times. Jody made the suggestion that with the new Shields Sporting Goods store that is currently being readied to be opened that this Kiosk be relocated closer to that entry at the Mall – and if there are issues with the internet connections that Midcontinent should be contacted to confirm their wireless signal strength to help resolve the internet connection issue. This will allow many more people access to the schools information as they pass along towards the Shield’s store. Discussion was also held that the

school could look into the purchase of another Kiosk and placing it at the theater in East Grand Forks. Jim said he would look into this – check budgets etc.

Additional discussion was held – this enrollment reduction had been predicted as many as five year ago – and is now being fulfilled. Yet the trend in the electrical trade also indicates and need for replacement trades people in the coming years – with the Baby boomers coming into retirement age – as many as 8,000 per year may be needed. The college needs to be aggressive with recruiting new students. Jim noted that Dan and Stan could work with Jason Trainer the Enrollment manager – to review the potential students that may be signing up for the next year’s classes. To help start reaching our student caps.

Dan suggested that it may be possible for contractors and the school cooperate and when the contractor has a person who may be interviewed and with the interview process see’s that the person has had no experience and or formal training – steer that person towards the college for that training. This possibly could be subsidized thru grants – so the student and contractor would not bare the entire cost of the training – yet the positional employee is tied to the employer and when available would be able to work with the employer during the school year and after graduation be able to move into a full time position, with that employer.

Russ commented about the additional training that the typical student would be involved with even after attending the college and graduating from the courses. This is additional training beyond the two years provided at the college – provided by either the JTAC or the IEC Dakota’s.

We discussed the requirements in North Dakota to be able to write the journeyman’s test – 8,000 hours and minimum of 2 years of approved training. The college is an approved training facility.

Stan asked of all the attending contractor members – that we provide the instructors with any needs that we see in the current training of the students – items we feel that the school should spend more time in with the students – such as theory – conduit bending – controls – etc – please provide any lists as soon as possible before the coming school year.

Be it was near dinner hour – Russ call for a motion to adjourn – motion made by Russ Lee – seconded by Mark – motion approved

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM

Russ Penn – Chair

