

“Electrical Construction Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes”

March 24, 2015

Called to Order 4:30 PM

Roll call: Present -Russ Penn (Chair), Dan Edman, Scott Stenvick, Brian Huschle, Anne Bryson, John VanLoy for Brian Coster, Chris Eken - Absent – Dan Boyce, Jody Beauchamp, Stan Kovaik, Brian Coster.

Old Business – Review Meeting minutes from October 27th, 2014 – Motion to approve – Mark Lothspeich / Second – Anne Bryson - Minutes so approved.

Instructor Report – Dan Edman (Stan out sick) -1st yr First Semester – 18 current students – attendance has been good – Dan thought that this group as a whole – are eager to work and would all be good hires.

Instructor Report – Dan Edman - 2nd yr Second Semester – 14 students – Several students are employed in part time jobs – attendance is still an issue – see about 50% attendance any given day.

Classroom caps are still set at 23.

New Business:

Discussion continued regarding Student attendance:

Dan commented that attendance is down due to students working – seem to come and go as they feel – Dan also commented that even though there are attendance requirements – they are ignored by the students and if he were to enforce these requirements they would be gone. So he continues on with about 50% attendance every day Monday thru Thursdays. Friday’s were scheduled for those students whom do have jobs to be free to work that day and weekends if they so are inclined.

Dan also commented that he is will to re-arrange so class times so he would do instruction later in the afternoons and evenings – or even has considered reducing the program to a one year program. But in doing that then the students may miss out of State required class room instruction requirements and would then would need to complete the requirements in some other manner (via contractors instruction programs).

Suggestion came forward form Brian Huschle – to possibly look at a highbred class room – where lectures were accessed via on-line presentation and then the class room face time could be reduce, thus reducing hours require to be on site.

Dan returned comment – that this would be 2 years out since this arrangement would need to submitted and approved by the state.

Chris Eken mad suggestion to change to ½ day calls secession and extend the length of the program to accommodate the required class room hours. Such as September thru December the next year – or how ever that would need to be extended. Comments from the contractors – stated that this would impact their ability to then have co-op workers for those standard summer periods – when the needs are the highest – work

does tend to decrease around the December thru April time period and then the graduates could have other issues in returning to or find new contractors will to hire at that point in the year.

Discussion was also held regarding – seeing if the contractor – would become a sponsor for those students (co-op's) whom worked the summer for them – would commit – in some way to help with tuitions for the second year – providing that the student would return to work for that contractor for a specified time period – place the student under contract – it is being done in many industries currently.

In doing this part of the requirements would be that it is mandatory - to attend class! Dan commented that it is not that the guys can't pass the tests – they do – but they are missing out on the discussions that come up during lectures and labs. 2nd year students are given a national test set – and for the last couple of years that they have been taking this – they do well on it.

It was also discussed – to just enforce the current requirements for attendance – and they can't or don't comply they fail. Russ noted that the IEC (Bergstrom Electric additional Training Classes) require 100 % attendance – and if for some good reason the student can't attend – then they must make up the class at a selected date. Russ Lee and Mark Lothspeich also noted – that the JTC classes also has the same requirements.

Brian Huschle informed the committee – that NEICA – did provide a grant/gift of \$25,000 to the program – of which \$20,000 will be used for scholarships. Brian then needed to excuse himself – for his speech prior to dinner.

Chris Eken – felt that he could talk with contractors as he does his inspections about possibly providing sponsorships to students. It was basically agreed that these arrangements – would only be for the second year students that intend to return to classes and then return to a particular contractor after graduation.

Builders and Traders – as well has offered scholarship dollars – for all the trades – how this is dispersed was not discussed. These funds are open to all of the trades programs. Anne Bryson – also noted that DSG offers scholarship to students in all of the trades – it is not just for the electrical classes – (Russ provided some DSG information along with the committee's information packets)

Dan also noted – that a letter from a contractor – stating a date they need and employee to return to work – he will give final testing and release them 2 weeks early.

Being it was the dinner hour – Russ called for a motion to adjourn – motion made by Scott – seconded by Anne – motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM

Russ Penn – Chair

