

“Electrical Construction Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes”

October 23, 2018

Called to Order 4:30 PM

Roll call: Present -Russ Penn, Stan Korvarik, Rick Simon , Brian Huschle, Chris Eken Jeff Olson, Kevin Tran /
Absent - Jody Beauchamp, Anne Bryson, Russ Lee, Mark Lothspeich Wayne Bergstrom.

Russ – noted to the committee – one new member – Mr. Kevin Tran w/Border States Electric Supply – whom replaces Brian Coster whom retired. Also Mr. Rick Simon as new 2nd year instructor for NCTC – whom replaces Dan Edman whom also retired.

Russ Penn – informed the group that this will be his last year as chair – he has plans to retire in Jan 2020, so feels it is time for another to step up and fill this position. Russ will call for nominations or volunteers for positions of chair / vice chair / secretary before the end of the meeting.

Old Business – Review Meeting minutes from March 13th, 2018 – Motion to approve – Chris Eken / Second – Stan Korvarik - Minutes so approved.

Instructor Report –Stan Kovarik -1st yr First Semester – started the year with 23 – Same as last year. One has decided to not attend so working with now 22 students. Attendance has been good – students eager to learn – Stan feels that he has a good group again this year.

Instructor Report – Rick Simon - 2nd yr. First Semester – started this fall with 22 students retuning from last spring. Good group again.

Classroom caps are still set at 23.

New Business:

Stan commented that they will not be doing a house project with the 1st year students this year. They have had much discussion regarding the pressure that this places on the students and they are far from ready for this type of pressure. None are used to having to make sure the house is 100% correct – working with roofers, carpenters, HVAC installers etc. – all working together at the same time – and the house must be 100% correct. Brian interjected that this is a decision that the school has made – that an RFP was sent out for the house project for this year. Rick believes his 2nd year class is more than able to take the house project on – they would need to realign some of the current curriculum – by moving some of his curriculum to the first year to allow room for the work on the house. Brian and the school will be looking at making these adjustments for next year classes.

Doing these changes – would allow the first-year students more time to understand the trade -also give them the opportunity to work for a contractor over the summer to gain experience in the field – and when returning to class the next fall -then they will be more comfortable with the surrounds and the processes required to take on the house project.

Stan – commented that he would love to see contractors more involved with sponsorships of students. Seeking contractors who may pay for their education while working in a part time position for the contractor – the student and the contractor would have a contract for that student continue working for them to a determined number of years. For the contractor to get a return on their investments in the students. After this time period the student / employee may release themselves to seek other opportunities. Russ asked Brian about how many other companies that the school has such arrangements – he mentioned Philadelphia Macaroni, Textron – Artic Cat, Marvin Widows-Grafton and Dig-a-key.

Rick commented and questioned – if this that sponsors would then need to have a say in the curriculums? Sponsors should have the ability to review the curriculums – but those are set by the State of MN – and must be adhered too. Sponsors can make comment on curriculums. (Russ’s thoughts after the meeting and while developing these minutes – is that any sponsors that may come forward should then be invited to be a part of this committee).

Curriculum Changes: Stan felt that may of the students are having issues with communications on a personal basis – not communicating with other people – and this may be to their detriment in the future. Stan suggested an Human Relations type program – they may not all have to deal with the public or owners in their trades but those that may excel and become the voice for their company or their own companies will need to know how to deal with and discuss issues. Rick felt that the guys all thought the computer class was not worth the effort – they all have cell phones and use them – for looking and searching the internet.

Chris Eken – asked Brian if he had heard anything students complaining about their credit hours from the program towards there time needed to be able to write their journeyman’s test? Brian was not aware of any comments. Russ commented that from a company meeting last week – our general manager informed us that the state of ND was no longer except the hours provided by their company if they are a part of the Dept of Labor Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training program. Those apprentices will have their hours gotten from the bureau. As proof of the time they have trained – and typically the bureau allows only 1000 hours for the two-year programs hours as the starting point. These hours are tracked by the student – each week he turns into his contractor a “blue card” that he notes what type of work he has done. The cards are broken into categories that then are tracked by the Bureau - and when they reach the 8000 hours required for the program they then will receive their certification from the Bureau. The contractor is responsible to keep and file these blue cards for each apprentice in the program and have them available for review by the Dept of Labor.

Russ at this time called for nominations of volunteers for chair / vice chair /secretary.

Mr. Chris Eken was the only volunteer for the position of Chair – no other volunteers or nominations were forwarded. Hench – Mr. Eken – takes over this position for the up-coming next meeting. Russ will forward him all of the file’s he has kept since 2005.

With the time nearing 6:00 and dinner is being served at that time the meeting adjourned

Next meeting – next spring – March 19th, 2019.

Russ Penn – Chair