



WELDING- MINUTES
Thursday, November 9th, 2023, at 5:00 PM
AA2 Room 105

Members Present: Mark Stanley, Kale Park, Justin Bafus, Tyler Fay, Jason Petersen, and Eric Teel.

Members Absent: Connor Lenhart, Phil Braafladt, Dale Lindsay, and Sonny Curtis.

Clark College: Theo Koupelis, Brian McVay, Paul Sibley, Wade Hausinger, Wende Fisher, and Chad Laughlin.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date will be Thursday, May 9th, 2024, at 5:00 PM in person.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The previous minutes from March 2nd, 2023, will need to be revised by the committee. The committee approved postponing previous minute approval.

COLLEGE UPDATES

Theo mentioned that there has been a 10% increase in college enrollment.

Theo discussed that advising and marketing have ongoing efforts to promote outreach for students and several vocation programs.

Additionally, the construction of the new building in Ridgefield will be finished by January 2025.

Theo announced that the Foundation is working towards 4-million-dollar donation to go towards the new development.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Brian announced Theo Koupelis the appointed Dean for WPTE.

Brian announced that the welding program has hired two new instructors, including Paul Sibley. Currently, Sibley is teaching Welding 102.

Joe Giles, a previous student, is a new hire with extensive experience in Solid Works. He hopes to expand his expertise to include Fusion 360 and Solid Works.

Brian mentioned teaching design, CNC, and robotics to stay ahead of tech changes.

Tatum Parsley has been conducting a lot of outreach for the welding program. Tatum is working with Vancouver school districts, Ridgefield High School, Battle Ground High School, Prairie High School, and Washougal High School.

Brian is working on organizing Skills USA at the college in January 2024 for Battle Ground High School. We are currently in the process of figuring out the donation for prizes and materials.

The American Welding Society (AWS) is planning to hold two college competitions in March - one at a college and the other at Gunderson Fabrication.

Brian shared that the program has a new welding table and a mobile cart for the winter quarter referred to as a cobot.

Brian shared the program is actively working towards two cohorts a year. The program currently offers morning, noon, and night classes.

Brian and Wade plan to hold an 8-hour weekend class on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday in Fall 2024.

Brian requested feedback from the committee regarding the schedule for the weekend.

Wende recommended a morning and afternoon lecture.

Jason encouraged weekend classes because it allows for student work schedule flexibility.

The president of the American Welding Society (AWS) visited on Monday, November 6th, 2023 to tour the shop and discuss the program. The president provided positive feedback.

Brian announced that the welding open house will take place on November 17th, 2023 from 4 pm to 6 pm. The event will feature a robot display, VR welders, and a welding station with a CNC project.

Brian purchased a CNC motor last year and recently a Hypertherm plasma cutter. The program will continually do upgrades as they can to get rid of tanks for safety purposes. The foundation applied for a workforce grant, but unfortunately, the college did not receive it.

Brian mentioned that he is unsure whether he will proceed with the forklift training.

Brian mentioned that due to personnel changes, AWS has not had a welding program audit, but one is now scheduled for November 17th, 2023.

INDUSTRY UPDATES

Tyler recommended metal core welding for certain job requirements.

Jason recommended teaching more copper nickel pipe since the workforce is recruiting for pipe fitters.

NEW BUSINESS

The committee motioned to elect Mark Stanley as the new vice chair.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION ITEMS

Approve the previous minutes.

