

Fall 2017 Advisory Meeting Minutes

Program: Electrical

October 17, 2017

Location of Meeting: Electrical Shop Room E016

Members:

Nick Taormina, Owner, Roy Spittle Associates, Gloucester

Roy Simoes, Senior Engineer, Peabody Municipal Light

Jim Gangi Jr., Electrician, Land Electronics

Christopher Girard, Electrical Program Graduate, Class of 2013, Project Manager

Socrates Xerras, Licensed Electrician

Matthew Burt, Licensed Electrician

Andrew Andricopoulos, Licensed Electrician

Thomas Paras, Licensed Electrician, Electrical Contractor

James McDonnell, Licensed Electrician, Electrical Contractor

Robert Pedra, Manager, Northeast Electrical Distributors

Essex Tech Staff:

Michael Fila, Electrical Program Instructor

James Gangi, Electrical Program Instructor

Christos Xerras, Electrical Program Instructor

Brad Morgan, Principal, Essex Technical High School

Agenda Items:

1. Mr. Fila was introduced to the Committee as the new electrical instructor and the distribution of teaching responsibilities among the three instructors was explained. The Committee welcomed Mr. Fila and wished him luck.
2. Mr. Gangi noted that there is a measurable percentage of students enrolled in the freshman class that are not able to enroll in the electrical program. Mr. Xerras explained to the Committee the concept of "in district" vs. "out of district" pertaining to eligibility for traditional vocational programs vs. agricultural programs.
3. Mr. Gangi explained how the exploratory program works and when the students are permanently placed in their CTE area.
4. Mr. Xerras introduced the Quality Assessment Tool and Bias Review Checklist. The Committee noted the Quality Assessment Tool and reviewed the Bias Review Checklist. Mr. Girard questioned if this was the best use of the Committee's time.
5. Mr. Xerras noted that there has been a change in dress code, and hooded sweatshirts are no longer allowed in CTE areas. He also noted that there was no mention about the FR (Fire Rated) clothing typically required for

electricians. Mr. Gangi mentioned that there was no mention of this requirement in the student handbook and the Committee agreed that this was confusing.

6. Mr. Xerras informed the Committee that Essex Tech had a new Cooperative Education "Co-Op" Coordinator, Lisa Berube and that seven seniors were out on Co-Op as of October 17. Mr. Gangi noted that the junior class would be eligible for Co-Op midway through the second trimester, in January in accordance with DESE regulations.
7. Mr. Xerras reviewed the Programmatic Review Checklist with the Committee and explained its purpose. He also noted past attempts at recruiting new members to add diversity to the Committee and difficulty in finding qualified candidates who reflected the diversity requirements of the Checklist.
8. The Committee noted concern regarding the lighting in the shop area. It was noted that four high bay light fixtures have been purchased and will be installed by students when a scissor lift is available.
9. Mr. Gangi noted that a new project has been added to the Sophomore/Junior rotation: a steel stud mock up is now being used to more accurately demonstrate the use of Type MC Cable. The Committee was enthusiastic and approved this addition.
10. Mr. Xerras explained the "Nontraditional" initiative and noted that students typically do not appreciate the notoriety that accompanies the label. Mr. Morgan commented that he understood and that perhaps the name of the program might be reevaluated.
11. Mr. Xerras noted the trend that students are deciding not to continue in the trade, sometimes making this decision in junior year. He commented that this is a concern and that it impacts the statistic that traditionally 80%+ of students graduating from North Shore and now Essex Tech Electrical have continued working in the Electrical Field.
12. Mr. Gangi commented that the Related or Theory class continues to be scheduled during the shop week. This makes it impossible for students on Co-Op to attend this important component of the Electrical Program. He noted that Mr. Xerras has started a before school program two mornings a week in an attempt to give the students an abbreviated version of the class and allow them to earn some hours towards licensure.
13. The Committee noted that Mr. Brian Cranney, a long time member of the Committee, the General Advisory Representative, and benefactor to the Essex Tech Electrical Program has taken a lesser role in recent years. It was suggested that a new Committee Chair be nominated. Mr. Xerras nominated Mr. Girard. The committee tentatively agreed but suggested that Mr. Cranney be notified out of courtesy prior to official nomination.