



## Spring 2021 Program Advisory Committee Minutes

**Program:** Electrical

**Date:** 4/7/21 @ 5:00PM

**Members Present:** Adam Theriault, Richard Whitaker, Christos Xerras, Adam Jorgenson, Christopher Antonellis, David Delande, Carly Keenan, Ed Colbert

**Program Facilitator:** Christos Xerras

**Committee Chair:** Vacant

**Subject:** **Student Enrollment/Class of 2024**

**Discussion:** Mr. Xerras noted that 26 Freshmen of the Class of 2024 were placed in the Electricity Program, including 5 non-traditional students. Mr. Theriault and Mr. Whitaker mentioned the challenges inherent in admitting such a large class but agreed that the job market certainly warrants the increase. Mr. Jorgenson and Mr. Antonellis agreed with the comment regarding the job market and asked if such a large class was manageable for a single Freshman instructor. Mr. Xerras announced to the group that plans were in place to hire one or more additional instructors with their role(s) to be determined.

**Subject:** **On Campus Learning Update**

**Discussion:** The instructors (Theriault, Whitaker and Xerras) were pleased to announce that CTE has been full time for several weeks and students are excited to return to a more normal CTE schedule.



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Mr. Whitaker pointed out the value of a structured schedule for CTE learning. Mr. Theriault noted that plans were in place to

bring the entire school back for full time CTE and academics by the end of April. Ms. Keenan, the student representative, commented on the difficulty of remote learning and the tedium of sitting in front of a computer screen for hours on end. She looked forward to the full CTE and academic schedule as she approaches graduation. Mr. Delande praised the efforts of the Electricity Program instructors and the instructors of all of the CTE programs. The instructors praised the administration for the thoughtful and calculated approach to education during the pandemic and are very optimistic about the remainder of the school year and the 2021-22 school year. Mr. Xerras noted that the outside program has seen a positive upturn with the addition of Mr. Whitaker, working with the Junior class on off campus projects including Habitat for Humanity in Wenham, and the Patton Homestead in Hamilton, and on campus projects including Larkin Cottage and the usual small electrical maintenance and general improvement work.

**Subject:** Curriculum Bias/Programmatic Review

**Discussion:** Completed at Fall 2020 meeting.

**Subject:** Senior Portfolio Showcase

**Discussion:** Mr. Xerras noted that the Senior Electricity Class has been wrapping up work on their senior portfolios and plan to present the showcases of their credentials and work on the morning of May 5. Advisory committee members were invited to attend the presentations virtually via zoom and were asked to look for



invitations to the annual event soon

**Subject: Employee Outlook/Industry Trends**

**Discussion:** Mr. Theriault mentioned his industry connections and association with several instructors at other Massachusetts Tech/Voc Electricity programs and noted that the Electrical Instruction community believes that employment will remain strong despite the pandemic set-back. Mr. Antonellis, representing organized labor, agreed with this, supported by Mr. Jorgenson. Mr. Colbert noted that in his many years in the industry, he has seen economic ups and downs, and stressed that the diversity of work in the electrical trade allows it to be less impacted by such economic instability.

The discussion moved from Employment Outlook to Industry Trends and Mr. Delande noted the many sub-categories of electrical work including Fire Alarm, Security Systems, Control Wiring, and Data/Communications among others. Mr. Whitaker stated that these fields are discussed but that the Essex North Shore Electrical program has a philosophy of concentrating on the basic core concepts of electrical work. This comment was reinforced by Mr. Xerras who noted the long term success of the program and the many graduates who have earned Journeyman and Master Electrician licenses. Mr. Jorgenson, Mr. Antonellis, Mr. Delande, and Mr. Colbert applauded this approach and encouraged the instructors to continue along this track. Mr. Delande followed up with an update of recent product supply problems and the volatility of materials pricing as of late. The entire committee expressed hope that this problem would be resolved when the pandemic is declared over.



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**Subject: Recommendations for Program**

**Discussion:** Mr. Jorgenson and Mr. Antonellis asked about student tools and if any specific equipment was needed. Mr. Theriault gave an update on the status of Freshman Tools, noting that the Freshman Tool kits are updated as the tools become worn out or broken, and that the upperclassmen are responsible for buying and maintaining their own tool kits.

**Subject: New Business**

**Discussion:** Mr. Xerras made a point to once again thank Mr. Antonellis of the IBEW for the donation of 25 2020 National Electrical Code Books back in November. Mr. Theriault and Mr. Whitaker reminded the committee that they drove across the North Shore just before the holidays to deliver these new books to the entire Sophomore Class. Mr. Colbert mentioned how important the Code Book is to the electrical trade and that he saw an article in the Salem News highlighting the Code Book Delivery.

At the request of Ms. Bonnie Carr, Director of Workforce Development and Adult Ed Director, Mr. Xerras noted the expansion of the “After Dark” Program. He detailed that the Program greatly expanded access to technical training and admitted local high school students to Essex North Shore for specific and intensive instruction in technical areas not available at the students’ sending schools. The two-year programs allow juniors and seniors to attend Essex North Shore every afternoon for a two year course of study. In addition to the six After Dark programs already running, three new programs including Auto Tech, Electrical, and Plumbing are planned for the 2021-22 school year. New instructor(s) are being planned for these programs.



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Mr. Delande and Mr. Antonellis noted the need for these programs based on the employment outlook and recommended that additional space be investigated to house these programs and suggested that additional tools, equipment, storage cases, textbooks, and Code Books be made available for the promising program. Mr. Jorgenson also suggested that OSHA standards be highlighted and observed during all After Dark classes.

It was agreed that a new Committee Chair would be voted on at the next, better attended meeting. Carly Keenan, graduating senior, was thanked for her service to the committee as student representative.

**Subject:** Career Tree Development Form

**Discussion:** The committee worked together to answer the questions presented by the Career Tree software application.

**The meeting adjourned at 6:15PM**