Spring 2021 Program Advisory Committee Minutes

Program: Advanced Manufacturing   **Date: 4/7/21**

Members Present:
  Jack Frazier
  Giovanni Cintolo
  Bevan Weissman (taking minutes)
  Eliud Alcala
  John McCauley
  Bill Marnik
  Kevin Rush
  John Flinn
  Jason Vining
  Brian Norris
  Tracey Cahalane

Program Facilitator: Jack Frazier
Committee Chair: Bill Marnik
START TIME 6:10 PM

Subject: **Student Enrollment/Class of 2024**
Discussion: Enrollment up: 20 students in class of 2024, largest we've seen so far. Class of '24 reportedly all chose Advanced Manufacturing as their 1st or 2nd shop choice after Exploratory.
Question - what is that attributed to?

Answer:

increased enrollment in school in general. Well-run exploratory where every student came away with a machined yo-yo.

Question - we are currently in excess of the 16:1 student-to-teacher ratio recommended by DESE; does the PAC recommend we advocate to reduce this, either through additional instructors or limiting enrollment?

Answer - might be eligible for a teacher's aide; consider the equipment-to-student ratio as well, so students aren't doubled or tripled up on machines; 16:1 seems high and also very dependent on the types of students (might need to be lower for higher-needs students); see if teaching assignments can be split theory/shop, with more taking theory at any given time.

Subject: **On Campus Learning Update**

Discussion: Discussion regarding COVID protocols still being observed; return to 100% school population April 28th; we have been at 100% capacity in the shop since 3/17; no additional comments

Subject: **Curriculum Bias/Programmatic Review**

Discussion: Curriculum deemed to be balanced and fair; we have seen an uptick in the number of students who are on the autism spectrum, who require extra 1-on-1 attention and show great potential for their aptitudes; program skews highly male but we are trying to balance this; we have a few transgender students newly added this year

Subject: **Senior Portfolio Showcase**

Discussion: May 7th, occurring remotely. Seniors are in a good place to present, working on wrapping up their portfolios now and looking forward to practice before the big day.

It's a cross between an interview and a parents' view.

PAC
members
were offered to be involved in the portfolio showcase and will be emailed with
future dates for participation.

Subject: Employee Outlook/Industry Trends

Discussion: Co-ops had been reduced due to Covid, but now they are slowly
rebounding. We currently have 5 of 12 seniors on co-op, two who were recent
additions. Current discussions with Abiomed regarding potential openings for
seniors and juniors as well.

Kevin Rush has added his experiences to the PAC meeting to show the efficacy of
the program.

Nighthawks program has introduced a position for EssexTech students to work in a
paid position to support teachers within the program and to facilitate everyday
operations, one student, Jack Donovan, is the first of hopefully many to be a part of
this new program.

MassHire can provide support for individuals with disabilities who are seeking
jobs; they can even provide a 1-on-1 aid to accompany them to the job.

Question to PAC: Industry needs from future employees from our school?
Soft Skills are the foundations to overall needs from any employable prospects.
In general, looking for responsible, teachable candidates - people who show up on
time, can set a good example. Many places are still hiring, and looking for more.

Jason Vining and Tracy Callahane offered possible co-op or tours of their facilities
and future graduate opportunities.

Recommendations for Program
Discussion: 5-S training and Soft skills

Subject: **New Business**

Discussion: Shop updates: Synergy 745 coolant (safer, clearer), with DI system; Powered Drawbars on Trak mills for quicker tool-change and more productivity; tool shadow-boards implemented, to align with 5S standards. PAC members agreed to have instructors incorporate more 5-S and Lean Training.

The meeting adjourned at (time): 7:15pm