



Fall 2022 Program Advisory Committee Minutes

October 20, 2022

Program: Carpentry

Staff Present: Brian Borders, Robert Conard, Roy Silva, Huw Price
(visits by Jill Sawyer and Bonnie Carr)

Members Present:

Chris Galatis, Bob Williams, John Alden, John Alden II, Joe Alden, Emily Thompson, Matt Thompson, Maria Parnassa, Alexa Ogno, Jess Cranney, Jen Robitaille, Jason Kamps, Peter Koeplin, Quinlan Roberts, Danielle Skilling

Program Facilitator: Brian Borders

Committee Chair: John Alden Sr.

Program Updates (enrollment, curriculum, equipment & projects/field work, etc.)

Opening Statement:

Meeting began by introducing John Alden Sr. as chairperson. Members then introduced themselves and described their background and involvement with the Carpentry PAC.

Enrollment:

Current enrollment is 52 students.

Grade 10: 23 students (11 female, 12 male)

Grade 11: 12 students (3 female, 9 male)

Grade 12: 17 students (6 female 12 male)

Grade 9 will not be seated until January with the expectation that 24-26 students will be placed to match last year.



Curriculum:

Currently the department is working on amending grade level curriculum as part of a schoolwide initiative to have scaffolded grade level curriculum in each CTE and academic area. John Alden asked if the current curriculum is producing the graduates with adequate skill acquisition to be successful on Coop and after graduation. Bob Williams, Matt Thompson, Jason Kamps and Peter Koeplin also inquired about what methods or type of curriculum and projects we were using to make sure students were acquiring and retaining the content. Mr. Silva and Mr Borders explained that they co-teach grades 11 and 12 and that they do live work with students. There is really no curriculum for doing live work, with the exception of review of skills that are required for the project at hand that day. They also informed the group that their Prof. practice goal this year was to look at creating a review type curriculum they could use to strengthen knowledge students need to know to be successful as apprentice carpenters. They explained that this would take place a few days each shop cycle for 30-45 minutes before beginning to work on the on/off campus projects.

John Alden asked Mr Conard and Mr Price what was happening for curriculum / projects at the grade 9/10 level. Mr Conard explained that he now has a separate related theory class that he will impart that is sequenced curriculum, but that shop projects do not always follow it because of district work that is often asked to be completed by grade 10. The group asked why sophomores were working on live work instead of specific projects that would be built in the shop that followed his related theory class. Mr. Price added that he and Mr. Conard will be working together to create a system that works for them moving forward as Co teachers. Mr. Borders explained that as a department we are working on a curriculum that would most likely include that format. Most of the group are vocational school graduates and all agreed that that's how they were taught in grades 9 and 10 when they were carpentry students. All agreed that while working on a live project would include learning for grade 10 students, it is probably not the preferred method for students to learn and retain skills and knowledge. Sequential learning and repetitive tasks would better prepare students to be ready for Live work as Juniors / Seniors and more importantly, ready for Coop employment.



Equipment:

John Alden asked if we had what we needed regarding tools and equipment to teach 25 grade 9 and 10 students in the shop as well as having 2 upper class crews working independently. Mr Borders told the group that we just received an additional trailer and that he and Mr Silva are 85% equipped to work on projects, But would probably need additional tools to be able to work with 10-12 students each instead of the current 6-8. Mr Conard stated that the tools used in shop for grades 9/10 definitely need to be increased substantially to be able to have 25 students completing tasks in shop. The group asked if he had a list yet, he said it is being worked on but not finalized yet. He told the group we would be submitting a line item for the SY 24 budget this month.

We are also expecting an additional van sometime in the future, once they are available. The need for ladders and additional Alumna-Pole staging was discussed. What the department currently has is a mix when the schools merged and not all is compatible or complete. We will need the ability to construct a complete OSHA compliant system in the future where all parts are compatible, IE platform, bench, end rails and safety netting. Chris Galatis asked why there were two 220 SJ cords on the floor near the table saws. Brian Borders explained to the group that we were still awaiting the hard wiring of the saws at the new locations. We agree it is an issue that really needs to be corrected ASAP.

Projects On/Off Campus work:

Mr Borders began by discussing Larkin Cottage and informing the group that we are moving forward at a steady pace and hope to have the trusses installed by mid November. There are still two more exterior walls that need to be constructed and we began installing the exterior sheathing last week. This is the first experience of live work for the juniors, but they are learning quickly. Mr Borders explained that the Carpenter's Union has partnered with the school as well as ABC Supply in Danvers to donate labor and materials for the truss installation and roofing. BrandSafway has also partnered with us to provide all of the necessary staging to install the trusses, roofing and siding. ABC has also donated 75% of the cost of the windows for the project.

Mr Silva then discussed the two off campus projects that are in the cue currently. The first is the continued work at the Marblehead Boat house that he worked on last year. They have made substantial changes to the project and now he has to remove the existing stairways and construct a new stairwell entrance and frame for an elevator shaft. The 2nd is the Red School House project in Boxford, where he explained he will be working with Jason Kamps Builders to remodel the existing several hundred year old school house. Mr Silva told the group that they are both great projects, but will take some time to complete.



[Curriculum Bias/Programmatic Review](#)

John Alden had a few questions regarding the Bias topics and the group discussed how anyone could answer some of them with any degree of certainty. We went through the list and answered what the group felt they could.

[Cooperative Education Update](#)

Mr. Borders told the group we currently have seven seniors out on Coop and three more in the process of going out on Coop. The juniors are not eligible until the end of 2nd quarter, but several have potential employment opportunities when the time comes. Mr. Borders explained that there are several employment opportunities that have not been filled by the remaining seniors. This is due to the fact that most have no full time transportation and others do not currently wish to work in a Coop job. Ms Carr explained to the group that Essex Tech now also is running a NightHawks program for adults who are looking to begin careers as a carpenter. The group thought this was a great addition to the school as we all know there is a need for more skilled labor in the workforce today.

[Employment Outlook/Industry Trends](#)

The group all agreed that the shortage of skilled labor and the abundance of projects is still very much an issue. The five contractor members could all use more experienced carpenters to be able to keep up with their workload. Mr. Borders asked if the possibility of our graduates filling that role would be a solution, and the consensus is that while they definitely are a valuable addition, they do not have the experience yet to fill the need of an experienced carpenter. We all agreed that having one graduate with an experienced carpenter would be the ideal solution to most of the needs.

The need for skilled labor has no signs of letting up for years to come. Most of the current skilled trade workforce is 50+ years old and too many are retiring each year, with no new projects to fill the void left.



Recommendations for Program *(including budget needs for FY24)*

Keep the pressure on for the additional van, so that the program can continue to work as two crews for grades 11 and 12.

Plan for the budgets moving forward to include equipment and materials to function with the expectation that future class sizes will remain at 24-26 students. Reach out to tool manufacturers and materials vendors for partnerships and donations.

Continue to look for Off campus projects that will provide more new construction type work like Habitat for Humanity homes or similar projects.

The program should also be advocating for commercial projects for students to work on as well. While those may be more difficult to find in the sending communities, there is a strong need for carpenters to have a well rounded skill set.

Financial Fair Recruitment

John Alden inquired about this Fair, we as instructors did not have any information regarding it. We informed the group that we would determine when it was going to be held and what the school is looking for for a commitment and email them when we had the information.

Mr Borders asked John if the subject was discussed during the general advisory meeting and he replied it was not.

New Business

John Alden Sr. asked about what our existing trailer had for signage and if we had a plan for the new trailer yet? Mr. Borders told him we have nothing on our existing trailer in regards to signage for the school or the shop.

Joe Alden offered to have our trailers lettered by his signage vendor. Mr. Borders thanked him and told him that he would contact Jill Sawyer with his offer and get an electronic file to him with an approved graphic.

Jess Cranney asked if we had a CAD curriculum of any form. Brian Borders explained that plan reading not pan creating is in our frameworks. She then asked if she could arrange for one of their architects to come in and speak to the students about the CAD career path.

Brian said we are definitely open to having them come in.

The meeting adjourned at (time):

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm