

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
Power Plant Operations
Centralia College
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NOTES

Friday, February 11, 2005
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Advisory Committee Members

**Rick Bradshaw*

**Gary Clark*

**Patti Connolly*

Jose Diaz

**Jim Frazier*

**Roger Gestrine*

Jim Guenther

Bob Gust

** Barbara Hins-Turner*

Brad Holmes

**Kim Howell*

Mark A. Johnson

**Mark S. Johnson*

**Charles Lascera*

John Martens

**Duncan McCaig*

Pat McCarty

Steve Miller

Len Moreau

Jay Pickett

Tanya Price

Barbara Revo

**Rob Smith*

**Margie Taylor*

Jeff Walsh

Dr. James Walton

Arnie Winkler

**Roy Zimmerman*

GUESTS:

Don Rader, NWPPA

Michael Flynn, Hampden Engineering (MASS. Corporate)

Jim Roberts, Hampden Engineering (NW Operations)

**Denotes members not present*

Committee Notes

1. Mark A. Johnson welcomed members and asked them to introduce themselves.

Members were asked to review the notes from the December 3, 2004 meeting.

2. Michael Flynn from Hampden Engineering presented a powerpoint presentation on advanced and basic simulators and boiler systems. He discussed the types of simulator models that will be a “key” tool for advancing

students with their training. He said it would take 1.3 million dollars to fully set up the labs, including the labor.

Dr. Jim Walton told members about a Department of Labor grant the program is trying to obtain. He informed them he would be traveling to Washington, DC and would be asking for the entire amount it will cost to set up and equip the new power generation laboratory.

Mark A. Johnson asked members if they would commit to offering summer internships. He made sure they understood the internships do not have to directly involve the student's area of study. Mark said it's important the student get familiarized with the entire operation, and being involved in any aspect of the field will give them an idea if they fit into the environment. Currently there are 10 students who would like to commit to an internship. Any members with summer internship openings are asked to please submit them to the Center of Excellence. We would also like to know if these internships will be paid or unpaid so we can make this more appealing to interested candidates. Mark reminded members the internships not only make the program more attractive but also it's a great way to let our partners get a look at potential employees. Bob Gust stressed the importance of students having completed the Industrial Safety course before students apply for internships. This will not only be better for the student, but it will also be more enticing for employers to know their intern is coming to them prepared.

3. Jeff Walsh revealed the first quarter of the Power Operations courses went extremely well. There were 24 students who finished PPO 101 and there are currently 21 students in PPO 102. He said in May, the PPO program would like to arrange a tour at TransAlta, possibly to "see the boiler when there is a major overhaul."

The UETA website is currently being updated. UETA will be developing pages for people to take a self-test to see if this is the right program for them. Mark said he would like to include our member/partner names with links to their sites.

Reference Library: currently trying to contact over 500 vendors. Discussion will take place at a later meeting.

Mark asked members to review the attached surveys. Members were asked to ignore the deadline and to complete the "business" piece and the "education" piece of the survey, then return it to the Center of Excellence at a later date.

4. OTHER:

Mark said the PPO program is expanding and our goal is to provide training/intensive training to students, as well as corporations and people for on-the-job training. We are also trying to communicate/coordinate with the 60 community colleges in Washington State so they will send us students for special training and we will send them students who need to pick up pre-requisites, math courses, etc.

Members discussed the plans for the simulator from Hampden Engineering. Brad Holmes wanted to know more details on how the program would work over the 2 years. Mark explained students will take the core PPO classes and in the last 6-8 months, they will specialize in an area. Barbara Revo noted the college needs to have a wide range of training and the Hampden Engineering Simulator seemed to provide that.

Full-time Director/Instructor - Mark told members about the position for the Director for the Center of Excellence for Energy Production and Distribution Technology. We are looking for an individual who is a dynamic speaker, very knowledgeable in the industry, and can also be an instructor.

Diversity – Len Moreau asked for an update on the recruitment for diversity in the program. Jose Diaz said he is continuing to work on recruitment. He said there is a strong Latin movement in the community and he is pushing to recruit Latino's in the high schools.

Union Representation – Barbara Revo wanted to know what happened to our "union" representation at our meetings and stressed the importance of their participation. Mark mentioned having a one-on-one meeting with the Union Laborers. Barbara volunteered to be a part of the meeting and said she would try to get them commit to the meetings.

Industry Commitment – Dr. Walton wanted to know if the college obtains the simulator, if there was a clear commitment from our industry partners to send us students. Members discussed what, who, and how many students they would be sending. There was a definite commitment from PGE, who guaranteed to send students, especially if we couldn't fill our quota.