

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NOTES

Friday, June 25, 2004

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Advisory Committee Members

**Rick Bradshaw*

**Gary Clark*

Patti Connolly

Terry Cox

Jose Diaz

**Roger Gestrine*

Jim Guenther

Bob Gust

Barbara Hins-Turner

Brad Holmes

Kim Howell

Mark A. Johnson

**Mark S. Johnson*

**Theresa Kimball*

Charles Lascera

Duncan McCaig

**Don McLeod*

**Steve Miller*

Len Moreau

Jay Pickett

Tanya Price

**Barbara Revo*

**Rob Smith*

Margie Taylor

Jeff Walsh

**Arnie Winkler*

**Roy Zimmerman*

*Denotes members not present

Committee Notes

1. Margie Taylor thanked the committee for coming together to work on developing the power program. Committee members were asked to introduce themselves. Following, members were asked to review the notes from the April 2, 2004 meeting.
2. Mark Johnson reminded members that the 2-year program will be developed to prepare students in the utility industry and that it was important to make this program more attractive to new and returning students. He revealed why the SAIT curriculum was the best choice for a 2-year ATA degree program. Members were given a list of text chapters with short descriptions.

Two instructors will be participating in a three-week program at SAIT (July-August) in Calgary. We want people with expertise to get training from SAIT to bring them up-to-date with industry and curriculum.

Mark explained the importance of having adjunct faculty to begin the program with. Mark said he is seeking instructors with specialties in the power industry to give students more in-depth training and a broader perspective on the industry.

Members discussed getting quality and dedicated people into the program. There was a consensus that the courses should not be over-taught or give too much information. If the student is dedicated, they can learn the hands-on and in-depth training later. Members also mentioned that the program needs to be marketed to students not only interested in the power generation field, but also to students who are interested in process/manufacturing industries. Jay Pickett suggested that the program be called Power and Process/Production Operations, giving students a better idea of what the program is about.

Terry Cox informed members on what the expectations would be once a student finished the program. She stated that the idea of the program is to send the student to work as soon as the degree is completed. The intent is not to make this a transfer degree, however they will be able to transfer on if they so choose. Those students looking to transfer on will be deficient in some areas, but should be able to complete what they need fairly quickly.

3. Mark told members we would like to get hands on training for students through partnering with industries. Students interning with companies will not only get invaluable training, but will also have the chance to see if they are “cut out” for this type of work. This will also help the candidate to potentially be hired once the employer gets to know them through the internship. The internship program will also be a great recruitment tool for the college as well as potential employers. Members suggested that students should come to their industries to get a “show-n-tell” day. Margie Taylor said she could get a guest speaker for students. Kim Howell said students could take a tour of their substations.

Mark asked members if they knew of any old equipment that may be donated for training students. He asked for videos, slides, models, machines, props, or anything that may be used as training tools.

Mark said we will need help from industry experts with training and setting up a laboratory. The expectation of instructors teaching an hour long course is at some point they will end up teaching a 5 credit class. He said the laboratory will need to have many items for students to get hands-on instruction and that we still need to find space for the lab and continue to need equipment donations.

Members discussed funding for the program. It was mentioned that we shouldn't limit ourselves to just the U.S., but also over the national borders. The best place to start, however, is within our own partnering companies. Mark suggested members look to their other associations within their industry.

4. Other Informational Items:

-Mark said a post card will be going out to every high school graduate so that they can call the college to find out more information on the PPO program.

-UETA is working with educational colleges/industries. Students returning can use prior work experience to challenge classes to earn credits.

-The market for this program is about 50% high school graduates and 50% re-entrance or career change students. Classes are being offered in the evenings for those who are currently working and need more training/education.

-Mark is drafting a survey and will distribute to committee members for review at a later date.

-The committee felt that it is important to include Process Industry members on the Advisory Committee, since the program will include industries other than power generation.

-Members discussed building relationships/partnerships with area high school teachers in order to use them as a recruiting tool for high school graduates.

5. Meeting Adjourned