

“Electrical Construction Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes”

October 24, 2017

Called to Order 4:30 PM

Roll call: Present -Russ Penn, Dan Edman, Wayne Bergstrom, Brian Huschle, Chris Eken / Absent - Brian Coster, Erik Shulind, Jody Beauchamp, Anne Bryson, Jeff Olson, Russ Lee, Mark Lothspeich.

Old Business – Review Meeting minutes from March 24th, 2016 – Motion to approve – Chris Eken / Second – Wayne Bergstrom - Minutes so approved.

Instructor Report –Stan Kovarik -1st yr First Semester – started the year with 23 – but one was not attending – so am at 22 for this semester. Attendance has been good – students eager to learn – Stan feels he has 10 students that will be very good in the future.

Instructor Report – Dan Edman - 2nd yr Second Semester – 18 students – returned from last year. So, have part time jobs as they are going to school.

Last spring – hiring rates were good some students went to local contractors and some went to Denver area.

Classroom caps are still set at 23.

New Business:

Russ brought up the discussion we had at the last meeting regarding a possible short-term training. After the discussions last March – Russ did contact both James Schmidt (ND Executive Director) and Dean Hunter (MN Education Director) regarding this possibility – both responded that they would be inclined to give the program a review for possible apprenticeship credits, towards that persons Journeyman’s License.

Stan – was not so much in favor of these thought – felt that we’d be loading up a student with trying to learn an abundance of material, and may not be of benefit to the students.

Discussions will need to take place with the college as well as the state – a curriculum would need to be developed also. Most likely would be condensing the current classes and modify the curriculums. This process could be adjusted to say a semester and a half time line versus the two years currently in place.

Thought process behind this idea – is that the school currently loses students (many in the second year) after these students have a chance to spend their summers working in the field with a contractor. Many time’s they do not return to school to complete the two-year degree. They find that they can make a start in the chosen field of study and are provided with additional education from the contractors, and earn a living while doing so, by working a full 40-hour week.

Those other students whom do not find work with a contractor or whom have other jobs for the summer seem to be more inclined to continue with the second-year classes.

This could also open door to possibly add another instructor into the program.

Brian Huschle stopped in a few minutes before we were to adjoin and we discussed this possibility with him again – he will consider this possibility and consider what will be required.

Stan stated that Dean Hunter will be at the school on Nov 2nd, he will check with Dean to see if he will have some time to discuss this possible program – he may not since he has scheduled to visit several schools in the area on that date. Stan will check and advise.

As it was nearing 6:00 and dinner was about to be started the meeting adjoined @ 6:00 PM.

Next meeting TBD (Assumes March __ 2018)

Russ Penn – Chair