

Northland Community & Technical College

Electrical Advisory Committee Meeting

April 13th, 2023

Called to Order 4:37 PM by Chris Eken

Roll Call: Present: Chris Eken, Reannon Hoverson, Steve Wasvick, Rick Simon, Mitch Tupa, Curt Casper

Absent: Wayne Bergstrom, Russ Lee, Mike Lee, Jesse Sorum, Randy Olson, Todd Grabanski, Stephanie Leduc

Old Business: Reviewed the meeting minutes from October 20th, 2022. Motion to approve Steve Wasvick, Second Rick Simon.

Instructor report: Mitch Tupa 1st year class, semester 2. 18 students. Mitch said it was a good mix of students that really are getting the hang of it to some that aren't quite getting the grasp of the trade. Three students left the program and went to work, and two students did not show up for the second semester due to not passing the 1st semester.

Instructor report: Rick Simon 2nd year class semester 2. 21 students. Rick said 16 students have applied for graduation. A total of 9 students were placed on the honor roll. A total of 5 students will not receive a certificate. Good group of students.

Rick mentioned that about 16-17 students are currently working part-time, and all of the graduating class is currently placed with an employer. Mitch said that 17 of his students are registered for second year classes and two of his students are currently working part-time.

Classroom Cap is 23 students.

New business: A new member, Curt Casper, was introduced to the board. Curt is with NECA. Two other people that were not in attendance but verbally said they were interested in becoming a board member were approved to join the board. Dan Lamberson from North Valley Electrical Services and Matt Fjelstad from Division 17 Electric. They will be invited to the next meeting.

Chris had mentioned that Wayne Bergstrom is retired and will no longer be a board member. It was noted that Jodi Stauss-Stassen was no longer with Northland College and will also be removed from the list. Chris will reach out to Mike and Russ Lee to see if they are still interested in their board spot due to not being present at multiple meetings.

Chris mentioned reaching out to Todd Knaack who is the Minnesota State Electrical Inspector for the EGF region to see if he would be interested in taking a spot on the board.

Rick had mentioned that the State of Minnesota informed the College that they are short on education hours. To fix this issue, the 1st year will be adding one extra hour of lecture and 2nd year will add 2 extra hours of lab. Rick said this was unexpected.

Rick mentioned that the project house for the program could possibly be moved to campus, built on a foundation, and moved to a location. Rick said this could possibly be a big win for the program and college by having everything done on Campus. The board agreed.

Chris asked the question about time spent in the lab and what students do with their free time. Mitch said that there were students that took the whole lab time to complete a project and other students that would finish the lab quickly. Mitch said that the students who finished quickly would spend time doing other things in the lab space or asking questions. Chris mentioned that this may be a good time to take those students who finish quickly, take their shot at helping the other students by being “student instructors”. The group agreed.

Steve said that he would be scheduling a time to come in and talk to students. Discussion was had on classroom/lab walk throughs for members. It was said that anytime works for the instructors but to give them a heads-up when you’d like to come in. They would prefer an email to schedule a time if possible being that is the best way to get ahold of them.

Currently there is no Electrical Club.

Talks were had about taking tours of current projects in town for the students. Some board members may try and get something lined up and follow up with the instructors.

Chris asked Rick and Mitch to please bring a copy of the 1st and 2nd year curriculum and schedule to the next meeting so that the members can get a good look at what the year is like for students and to have a discussion on it.

Chris thanked all the members for their support of the program and wanting to be a part of the Board.

Next Board Meeting is set for October 12th, 2023, at NCTC, East Grand Forks campus room 290. Rick Simon moved to adjourn the meeting second by Curt Casper. Adjourned at 5:20 PM.