

Northland Community & Technical College

Electrical Advisory Committee Meeting

October 12th, 2023

Called to Order 10:00 AM by Chris Eken

Roll Call: Present: Chris Eken, Steve Wasvick, Rick Simon, Mitch Tupa, Curt Kasper, Matt Fjelstad, Randy Olson, Dan Lamberson, Todd Knaack, Monty Johnson

Absent: Russ Lee, Mike Lee, Jesse Sorum, Todd Grabanski, Reannon Hoverson

Old Business: Reviewed the meeting minutes from April 13th, 2023. Motion to approve Steve Wasvick, Second Rick Simon.

Instructor report: Mitch Tupa 1st year class, semester 1. 16 students, started with 14. Mitch said that 16 is a good number. Mitch mentioned that 4-5 students are currently working in the trade. He also mentioned that about 4 of his students had never touched a tool, so it was a good mix.

Instructor report: Rick Simon 2nd year class semester 1. 15 students, started with 17. Rick said that 12 of his students are currently employed in the trade. Good group of students.

Both Rick and Mitch did like the smaller class size, but it was said by Monty that setting the cap to low would result in the closure of the program over time but did agree that there is a fine balance between number of students to instructor. Rick and Mitch supplied the group with the current curriculum.

Mitch mentioned that the students will tour the Altru Replacement Hospital construction site October 24th.

Classroom Cap is 23 students.

New business: New members Dan Lamberson, Todd Knaack, and Matt Fjelstad were present for the meetings and introductions around the table were done. The new Dean of Technical Programs, Monty Johnson, was also present and introduced himself. Stephanie Laduc will no longer be on the active list of members.

Monty mentioned that it would be a good idea to try and involve someone from HR and a student on the board to help make sure that all areas of the program and trade are invested in the board. It was mentioned that someone would reach out to Eric Dennison from Dakota Supply Group to see if he would be interested in a seat at the board.

Curt mentioned that there is an endowment fund set up for students that are working for NECA contractors.

Labs, Tools, and Equipment were brought up. It was mentioned that \$7000 a year was budgeted for both the 1st and 2nd year and how that may need to be increased. Matt mentioned the program should investigate having the students buy lab materials but that was quickly turned down for the fact the students have enough expenses already. Rick said that they are going to bring back a mandatory tool list for students and the group agreed that would be best for the program because students are showing up with minimal tools and makes it hard to complete lab assignments.

It was mentioned that the instructors should go around the area technical schools to see how they have their labs set up. Rick said the Lab is nearing the end of life and an investment would be needed soon to bring it up to where it needs to be. Monty said it would be a good idea to research the life span of lumber for a lab for budgetary purposes. The group agreed that if available they would walk the lab after the meeting.

Monty mentioned that the program needs to be out and looking for donations because that is a great tool to counter budgets expenses. A lot of contractors and distributors are always looking for advertising and getting their name out there and maybe they could do that by donating to the program. Discussions were had about various ways outreach could be had to various entities for donations. Chris said both Rick and Mitch should make an immediate needs list so the board can reach out to businesses for possible donations.

The house project is now being built on site, but the students have not started doing electrical work on it yet.

Students are staying on task and doing well with curriculum. Happy to see that most of the students that start the program have been seeing it through to the finish.

Monty shared that a new president will be coming in soon. It was also mentioned that the Minnesota Department of Labor has clarified that 2 years of technical school training will count as one year in the field.

Next Board Meeting is set for April 18th, 2024, at 10:00 AM, at NCTC, East Grand Forks campus room 290. Rick Simon moved to adjourn the meeting second by Dan Lamberson. Adjourned at 11:00 AM.