

ETAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING DATE – 1/5/2010

MEETING DATE – 1/5/2010

MEETING TIME – 12:00 to 1:00 PM

MEETING ATTENDEES –

1. Andrew Dahlen – ETAS instructor, Northland College
2. Eric Wold – Automation / Quality Engineer – Arctic Cat Corporation
3. Deb Wittenberg – Human Resources, Digikey
4. Norma Konshak – Dean of Academic Affairs, Northland College
5. Kent Hanson – Vice President, Northland College

AGENDA

1. Program Sustainability –
 - **Low enrollment**
12 total students –
Second Year Students – 7 (6 affiliated with Digikey)
First Year Students – 5
 - **Student job prospects, internships.**
Eric – There is a need at Arctic Cat for Electronics Technicians, however there is some reluctance from management to add these positions.
Employees need to be adaptable, able to perform tasks beyond electronics.
Deb- The scholarship program at Digikey was cut back due to the economic conditions. Business has since picked up and people are busy.
 - **Geography.**
Andrew – Folks attending classes at NCTC in TRF are typically from the area and wish to remain in the area after graduating. Right now there are limited opportunities in the area. The college is investigating options to expand beyond our geography. Included in these options are offering classes on both the EGF and TRF campuses. A lab component for online classes would need to be housed in the existing TRF electronics Labs.
 - **Links to other programs - Renewable energy, Aviation UAVs, Construction Electricity.**
Andrew – the college is looking at future academic programs in Renewable energy and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). 80% of a renewable energy program is similar to the current ETAS program. A recent meeting was held with faculty of the Construction Electricity Program to investigate opportunities to share classes between programs. The college could offer core classes and then the student could decide in their second year which program they want to finish.
Norma- Students could earn a number of certificates. These certificates can be combined to form an AAS degree. This approach is encouraged by MNSCU. It allows students the ability to start and stop their education while achieving a level of completion.

2. Curriculum –

- Aligning Curriculum of ETAS program with 360° Multi-Institutional Pre-automation certificate.

Below is a side by side comparison of the 360° Pre-Automation Certificate and the existing ETAS classes that would be subject to change. Classes have been grouped by row into similar courses.

360° Pre-Automation Certificate		ETAS Existing Classes	
AC Power	3 credits	Electricity 1	2 Credits
DC Power	3 credits	Electricity 2	3 Credits
Digital Electronics	3 credits	Digital Electronics	5 Credits
Analog Circuits	3 credits	Analog Electronics	5 Credits
Motor Controls	3 credits	NA	
Total	15 Credits	Total	15 Credits

Eric believes aligning with 360 is a good choice.

Deb needs to check with others at Digikey.

- Evaluate the need for Lean Manufacturing and SPC/TQS in the program.
Andrew – These classes are unique to the ETAS program. I was not able to find comparable classes in other electronics programs. Do you see an advantage in keeping these classes?
Eric- It is helpful for people to have a global understanding of these concepts.
One option may be to combine these two classes into one.
- NEC “Power Limited Technician” Andrew will determine the requirements for this license and pursue the exam. Adding a Power Limited component to the ETAS program will be strongly investigated.

Andrew will set up future meetings with administration and possibly advisory committee members to further discussion on the ETAS program future.

THE REMAINDER OF THE AGENDA WAS NOT DISCUSSED DUE TO TIME CONSTRAINTS

3. Program Marketing

- High School Visits
- Scholarships
- Electronics Technology Fair – Low attendance.
- Summer camps – 3 highly successful camps last summer.
- Robotics / electronics club.
- Advertizing money from 360° Center for Manufacturing Excellence - 360mn.org

4. Program resources –

- Equipment
- Resources
- New technologies.
- Facilities

5. Staff Development:

- Opportunities for faculty professional development activities.
- Open industry based training to instructors.
- Training, internships, seminars, etc...

6. Evaluation

- Performance of graduates
- Suggestions for program enhancements.