



**Drafting Program  
Lacombe Campus  
Occupational Advisory Committee Minutes  
May 24, 2024**

**Members Present:** Viorel Florea - Instructor, Owen Smith – Lacombe Campus Dean, Brandi Newman – Ampirical, Louis Verges - , Chuck Dammon – Dammon Engineering

Guest: Mary Slazer - NTCC Executive Director of Advancement and Community Relations

Old Business: none

Minutes of last meeting – committee members confirmed they had reviewed the minutes

**New Business**

1. Business and Industry Update – the advisory committee members reported the following
  - i. Chuck Dammon – work is primarily industrial and commercial, only 2-D drafting using AutoCad. Try to hire recent grads, they typically move on after 1 or 2 years. Economy is slow and they are not very busy, but have 7 jobs on the books now. Dammon says new hires are very green, so he has them draw his office, which helps them visualize what they’re drawing, practice measuring, etc. Then he takes them to a job site that’s under construction. He recommends taking students on field trips, getting more practice on the computer.
  - ii. Brandi Newman – works for Ampirical, doing electric utility design. They use Bentley, Inventor, AutoCAD Electrical with SDS Toolkit. It’s good for students to have foundation in Inventor. They aren’t getting enough of that foundation at NTCC because the program is shorter. They also need to learn to backcheck themselves, pay attention to the basic principles of alignment.
  - iii. Louis Verges – works in HVAC and plumbing. Appreciates addition of Revit to curriculum. Students need to understand what they’re putting on paper means to the person who’s building the job, so quality and backchecking is important. Would also be helpful for students to understand contract documents.
  - iv. Dean Smith – we are looking at changes that can be made to the curriculum. Feedback is that curriculum possibly needs to be extended to 3 semesters with more lab time and a course in basic employment skills and understanding work flow, conflict resolution and communication.
2. Curriculum Review
  - i. Admissions Requirements – Smith reported that open admissions policy has not changed since last meeting.
  - ii. Program Content – students take 5 courses per semester
  - iii. Program Length – Drafting is a 2 semester program with a technical track or Associate of Applied Science
  - iv. Delivery Modes Offered – face-to-face, with some hybrid and online. Offering a summer course in Inventor.
  - v. Equipment and Materials – AutoCAD, 42” wide format printer, 3D printers.

3. Program Review
  - i. Program Assessment Plan Results – Florea reported program is in the middle of the 2023-2024 cycle. Students have passed on all 5 program assessment measures. Smith reported that enrollment was trending downward during the pandemic, but is currently trending upward.
  - ii. Student Evaluations - Smith reported that students are requesting more time in the program.

4. Action Items & Action Reports

- i. Action items requested of the Program of Study from the OAC – Florea reported that there has been discussion and everyone is in agreement that basics need to be strengthened, both theoretical and practical. Also students would benefit from observing jobs in progress. Looking at going to 3 semesters, separating theoretical from practical for some courses, e.g., AutoCAD. Smith shared the program curriculum, noting that the plan is to add a dedicated lab for each course so that students can put in the time they need on projects. They are not currently spending enough time on assignments, trying to do them while also listening to lecture, as well as adding the business preparation course, and beefing up the Capstone project. Florea added that it would be helpful for business partners to identify some simple projects that could be assigned for Capstone projects. Smith reported that curriculum revisions under consideration would be to add a 1 credit lab for Materials and Manufacturing, Revit, Architectural Drafting, Mechanics, Parametric Modeling and Pipe Drafting. Smith added that the curriculum would be broken out over 3 semesters rather than two. Drafting Fundamentals and Geometric Construction will be broken into two courses.

Verges recommended a panel of professionals to give students feedback on their Capstones. Smith stated that will be expanded, as well as having industry partners come in during the semester at certain checkpoints. Newman said that someone from Ampirical would be glad to participate.

Smith reported that instructor Hayes Walker is not returning, so NTCC is looking for an instructor for Pipe Drafting and AutoCAD.

Dammon reported that some high school students are better prepared for employment. Smith offered that is because they are required to complete AutoCAD Certification, which is not an NTCC requirement although it is under consideration and that more certifications are being offered to students. Advisors reported that certifications are not necessary for employment, but they can set an applicant apart.

- ii. Progress related to action items established at previous OAC meeting – none reported



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Mary Slazer, Director of Institutional Advancement Services

5/24/2024

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Date