

PTEC Advisory Committee Minutes

Friday, March 2, 2018

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m., Rodgers Room, Memorial Student Union
Tonkawa, OK

Members Present: Diane Anderson, P66; Roxanne Dixon, Continental Carbon; Ty Godwin, Superior Pipeline; Jeff Hicks, Continental Carbon; David Huff, OMPA; Charles Lamb, Continental Carbon; Brian Lane, Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance; Liz Leaming, Ponca Works; and Trish Williams, Enel Green Power. NOC Members included: Dr. Frankie Wood-Black, Tricia Moore, Scott Haywood, Dr. Pam Stinson, and Dr. Rae Ann Kruse.

Dr. Pam Stinson, Vice President for Academic Affairs, welcomed the group and introduced the NOC members. Industry representatives introduced themselves.

Tricia Moore, Department Chair for Agriculture, Science, and Engineering, reviewed PTEC activities since the fall, 2017 meeting. At the October 2017 advisory committee meeting, members recommended adding Computer-Aided Drafting (CAD) software to the curriculum. SolidWorks has been loaded on the computers in the Physics Lab and training will begin primarily in pre-engineering classes for now. SolidWorks will begin in PTEC courses in Spring 2019. There is a certification test available in SolidWorks.

Tricia continued with an update on the employment pipeline. There are not enough PTEC graduates to meet the projected job openings. Scott Haywood offered to revise the curriculum in the Professional Development class to address industry needs for soft skills.

On the current degree sheet, there is a list of “industry partners.” The list needs to be revised to reflect current industry partnerships. Tricia asked for assistance in establishing current guidelines for industry partnerships.

Dr. Wood-Black began the discussion topics by asking the advisory group to provide criteria for establishing program partnerships. Some of the past partnerships have been in place since the inception of the PTEC program, but some of the currently-listed partners haven’t been seen in a while. The board agreed that current partners should be actively involved as advisory committee members. Continental Carbon specifically asked to be included as a partner. Other recommendations included providing financial support to the program through student scholarships, assist with workforce training, and serve as a mock job interviewer.

Dr. Wood-Black asked, “For those of you who have interviewed our students, how are our students doing in the interview process?” One member who assisted with past mock interviews offered two students positions after graduation.

Dr. Wood-Black continued by asking, “What is the performance level of new hires from our program?” The students were very trainable, and one had moved into a supervisory position. Students may lack specific problem-solving skills in electrical, pipeline, power production (turbine), and power technology. Mr. Lamb detailed that he likes to hire

PTEC students with farming backgrounds because they have the technical training plus problem-solving. Other members added that students focus on Internet searches to assist them in troubleshooting problems. Students need to look at what is “upstream and downstream” from the problem, use common sense skills, and focus on the problem, not the solution. Liz Leaming recommended more experience in the work environment. All PTEC students participate in a single day of job shadowing but not internships. Dr. Wood-Black shared that she has two teams going to nationals in troubleshooting this year and she is bringing back testing environments that don’t allow for access to phones or calculators. Advisory board members discussed that some plants will allow you to have your phone but asked that it be shut off or leave phone in locker. The industry doesn’t have time to train new employees. They need to hire workers with specific skill sets right now. Continental Carbon stated they need to hire 24 co-gen operators and have to look out of state. Of their last eight hires, only one was from Oklahoma.

Advisory board members offered to provide internships to help fill the employee gap. Each company detailed their expected workforce need over the next 2-5 years. Board members suggested adding Basic Power Plant Technology and Power Plant Operations courses. Dr. Wood-Black asked for recommendations of people who could teach a Power class. She explained the process needed to get a curriculum course approved. PTEC prepares students for refinery work but will look into providing more classes that relate to wind, solar, co-gen. Dr. Wood-Black asked for volunteers to work on a sub-committee to revise degree sheets and provide other degree options. Continental Carbon, Enel, and OMPA agreed to assist. Members stated that current degree options aren’t in line with where industry is headed.

Industry members also recommended hosting an Industrial Power Day where they could come into the classroom and discuss what they do.

Dr. Kruse asked for volunteers to host an on-site summer meeting. Continental Carbon agreed to host and Liz Leaming offered to provide lunch.

Tricia Moore closed the meeting with thanks to the advisory board members for providing input.