

PTEC Advisory Committee meeting

February 24, 2017

Renfro Center

Members present: Vince Cain, Ty Godwin, Brian Lane, Terry Thurber, Dr. Cheryl Evans, Dr. Pam Stinson, Dr. Rae Ann Kruse, and Dr. Frankie Wood-Black.

Dr. Cheryl Evans gave a welcome and told the members how much NOC appreciates the service they provide for our program and students. Advisory committee members and NOC staff introduced themselves.

Dr. Frankie Wood-Black commented that not every student is capable of being a board operator. NOC is working with University of Central Oklahoma on signing a 2+2 for safety and health. This would move NOC students with a general associate of science degree into industrial safety.

NOC has opened the Intro to PTEC course for students to take before being accepted into the program. This has improved our candidate pool by early detection of who wants to be a board operator and who doesn't. Students who take the intro class are about 50/50 at the end of class. As of today, we have 40 applicants for 24 slots for Fall 2017. March 15 is the deadline and we have been advertising via press releases, radio, and the NOC website.

PTEC would like to help with continuing education for area business and industry by providing recurring safety and skills training. We are looking to hire a new instructor who will be able to expand our course selection. All other adjuncts are from Phillips 66: David Lane is a process operator who specializes in safety and Kyle Murphy teaches our equipment class.

PTEC has assembled a team for the upcoming troubleshooting competition.

Today is the Professional Development mock job interviews. This semester we have students from PTEC, DMI, and Mass Communications in the class.

Question 1: Should we bring the pipeline class back?

Ty Godwin from Superior Pipeline: We have 186 miles of pipeline in Garfield, Grant, Kay, and Noble counties and we are laying more pipe today.

Vince Cain from Phillips 66: I attended the OSU-IT career fair and there were lots of jobs available in pipeline.

Terry Thurber from F.R.I: Confirmed there will be a need for lots of pipeline guys.

Question 2: What additional coursework would benefit PTEC workers?

Terry Thurber confirmed a need for an international dimension.

Dr. Wood-Black encourages engineering students to interact with PTEC students. She enrolls engineering students in technical writing with PTEC students and enrolls PTEC students in speech class with engineering students. She would like to create hands-on projects that blend the disciplines.

Ty Godwin indicated that most of Superior Pipelines engineers are located in Tulsa and most field locations employ process employees. There is a big disconnect. Intermingling would be a plus. Engineers with 1-2 years of experience are much more in tune with field guys.

Terry agreed it is a generational issue.

Vince Cain recommended students complete the NAPTA Capstone and internships that are built into the NAPTA certification. Students could complete them between semesters or at the end of the program. Cain believes these would build on the program. Dr. Wood-Black indicated we are slowly moving toward a NAPTA endorsed program. We are aiming for 2019—the year after our HLC accreditation visit.

Ty said students could do internships at their Tulsa office, but not locally.

Terry said he will ask Ken about internships. He said their organization does things right when it comes to engineers and field workers getting along.

Dr. Stinson asked if Introduction to Oral Communications (curriculum focusing on presentations) or Interpersonal Communications (curriculum focusing on teamwork) would be more valuable.

Vince indicated they always work in a team atmosphere and Interpersonal Communications would be a good idea.

Brian Lane presented employment possibilities at Poseidon Saltwater Systems near Medford and Dr. Wood-Black discussed the large gas to liquids plant in Midwest City.

Superior Pipeline has 13 employees locally and has been under a hiring freeze since 2014.

Dr. Wood-Black asked if someone would be willing to host the next meeting on a Friday in May. F.R.I. requires flame-retardant clothing (FRC). They have 5-6 visitor sets of FRC. Terry said their location is the only place in the world that has four windows in their kettle boiler.

The meeting concluded with lunch and a tour of the PTEC classroom.