

Process Technology Advisory Committee Minutes

October 13, 2017

NOC Tonkawa, Rodgers Room

Members present: Vince Cain, Phillips 66; Ty Godwin, Superior Pipeline; Brian Lane, OK Manufacturing Alliance; Liz Leaming, Go Ponca; Jeff Hicks, Continental Carbon; Charles Lamb, Continental Carbon; Jerry Sorrels, OMPA; Calvin Beaston, OMPA; Dr. Pam Stinson, Tricia Moore, Dr. Rae Ann Kruse, and Dr. Frankie Wood-Black.

Dr. Pam Stinson 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. Stinson reviewed the items in the committee packet.

Dr. Frankie Wood-Black thanked the committee members who served as interviewers at the mock job interviews. Vince Cain complimented the students on their preparedness for the mock interviews. Dr. Wood-Black said the spring mock job interview dates will coincide with the spring advisory committee meeting.

State of the Program

- Dr. Wood-Black is advancing the program to meet the NAPTA certified program standards.
- The University of Central Oklahoma has collaborated with NOC to develop a 2+2 agreement in industrial safety.
- This year was the third round of the application process to be accepted into the PTEC program. Program pre-requisites are Intro to Process Tech and Safety. Having prerequisites before program applications seems to be building a stronger cohort of students.
- Expect to have 20 graduates in May 2018.
- On track to have the same number of applicants for fall 2018.
- Reviewed the eight core courses for the program.

Discussion Topics

Question 1: Would students with AutoCAD/SolidWorks or Circuits skills benefit your company?

Rae Ann Kruse received three requests for AutoCAD skills at Manufacturing Day in Ponca City last week—Precisions Tool & Die, Mid American Door, and CookShack.

Jeff Hicks indicated that drawings never get done although it is important to maintain accurate drawings. Drafters are at the bottom of the food chain and the first to get cut in tight budget times. This is a common weakness in the industry. Would be a good add-on skill.

Vince Cain commented that all students need to understand the basics as a baseline.

Liz Leaming asked the question, “If a person had both, would you utilize them?”

Jeff Hicks replied, “You bet.” Continental Carbon is operating multiple plants so it would help to have up-to-date drawings—especially with lock out/tag out.

Frankie Wood-Black added it would be good for students who won't be a full-blown engineer but Engineer Tech.

Charles Lamb said Continental Carbon tries to update drawings once a year and tries to be diligent.

Ty Godwin added that Superior Pipeline just updated their drawings and it took 3 years.

Liz Leaming indicated that smaller manufacturing companies would like a drafting person with a 2-year degree. Pioneer Tech could provide a certificate class for a minimum enrollment of 6-8 people.

Frankie Wood-Black thought drafting skills would tie in well with internships.

Brian Lane did some SolidWorks in Pre-Engineering classes.

Kalvin Beaston from OMPA chimed in that a circuit's class would be beneficial for their employees.

Question 2: Dr. Wood-Black explained the Wonderlic badge system for soft skills validation. Wonderlic provides external validation through electronic documentation. There are currently 120 pre-engineering and PTEC students who have been given the opportunity to participate. Dr. Wood-Black asked how industry representatives would like to be notified.

Vince Cain thought it should be included on student resumes. He said the badges would only apply to their contract employees. He said he sees where the industry is headed regarding badges and indicated they are behind in that area.

Dr. Wood-Black said badges can also be linked to applications on the Indeed job board.

Liz Leaming explained that at the Manufacturing Day, employers expressed their biggest challenge was finding and retaining workforce. Liz thought if the job description listed soft skills it might be good to match with student job skills. She indicated that badges may not weed through the good and the bad, but it's a starting point.

Jeff Hicks responded they use a people management software. They evaluate off of a matrix for bonuses and promotions. He expressed frustration with the current system and would prefer to sit across from an applicant and have lunch and a discussion. Mr. Hicks went on to say they would like to host interns in 9-12 months. He believes internships could help teach students what working power plants are all about.

Vince encouraged others to bring students into their board meetings. When asking students, "Why did you choose this degree?" typical responses are because brother, uncle, parent worked here. He never hears, "My high school counselor recommended the program." Dr. Pam Stinson explained that career guidance is a very small portion of current counselor duties. Liz agreed that high school counselors have very little to do with career counseling. Vince recommended each company go out and steer students toward STEM programs. He indicated 30 percent of his workforce will retire in the next 4 years—mostly in the maintenance area so they are looking to hire 25 employees in the next year.

Charles Lamb added they expect a 75 percent turnover in Operations.

Questions 3: What on-the-job skills sets are required in industry that we could provide?

Jerry graduated from our PTEC program in 2011-2012 and indicated 90% of the degree program is the same as when he was a student.

Vince reiterated the need for troubleshooting skills. Tricia Moore agreed that they see the need for troubleshooting on the Agriculture side of the division also. It appears troubleshooting and reasoning skills have been lost. Vince says they teach a 7-step troubleshooting method and Dr. Wood-Black said she would love to be provided the curriculum for that training.

Tricia Moore closed the meeting and thanked the group for their support. She reminded the group that serving on the advisory committee is a two-way relationship, so please let us know how we can help them.