

ELECTRONICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES FROM AUGUST 2, 2002

Committee Members in Attendance:

Ray Grimes
John Anselmi

CCCCD Members in Attendance:

Wayne Jones
Joe Hackney
Toni Jenkins
Ann Beheler

The meeting was opened at 8:16 a.m. by program coordinator, Wayne Jones, who thanked everyone for attending.

Engineering Technology Dean, Ann Beheler, then gave a PowerPoint presentation, which gave an overview of the ET program. She elaborated that Electronics is just a piece of the ET Division. Ann presented information regarding the NSF, E2E and Carl Perkins grants, which are involved with our programs. Additionally, the newly created CIW (Certified Internet Website program), is being aimed towards either a security degree program or a highly specialized certificate program.

Ann went on to say that the threat of terrorists, hackers, etc is a very real and constant threat to our technology. Security is a hot issue, which changes seemingly hourly.

Toni Jenkins added that we need Advisory Committees to help us look at our curriculum to ensure we're on top of things to keep current. Ray Grimes inquired if we're keeping up with Sands. He was informed that yes, we're working with them and others.

The Dean continued with her presentation, informing the group that new classroom space is scheduled for the very near future, with additions already begun at SCC, to be followed by additions at PRC. Also, a convergence lab is currently being added to Heritage Hall at PRC. This lab will be a reserve lab for different projects. We have had industry input into the building of the lab. We feel it will be a magnet for industry usage as well. Toni injected that our first goal is to give students the opportunity to work in a convergence lab atmosphere. The goal is to also make it available for smaller businesses to utilize.

Ann continued by presenting information on Cisco sponsored curriculum, which also offers SUNUnix curriculum, IT (A+ & N+) curriculum, structured cabling, and Adobe. We have a lot of sharing with the North Texas Region Technical Consortium and NSF. She added that we are also working with UNT to offer pre-engineering courses to feed to their program. UNT is looking to us to handle the first two years of courses because they just don't have the space available. John Anselmi interjected that he is on the Advisory Board at TSTC and that it is difficult to get through to students, as well as counselors.

They don't understand these types of programs and, therefore, can't promote our programs.

Wayne Jones turned the meeting over to John Anselmi, the Committee Chair. John stated that, while he agreed to be the Chair, he doesn't have a lot to do with Electronics. He feels quad-C is doing a fine job. The industry as a whole is down right now. The biggest problem is getting students interested. Wayne informed John that the only minutes we have in the file are from the September 2000 meeting; minutes were not taken at the May 5, 2001 meeting, hence there aren't any minutes to approve.

Ann added that now is the time to train for when the market goes up. John Anselmi agrees, but people don't have the time to focus like that, they have to look at day-to-day existence. John Anselmi added that the United States is losing trade of big companies because several are moving their production to China. It's hard to find resources for training for the future because we don't know what'll be out there in the future. It's very difficult to gauge. John thinks we need to get two large companies in the area and train them. It is hard to maintain consistency in a relationship with a company.

Ann asked John Anselmi what type of employees he has at his company, Sunbelt. John said he has some who are technologists, a couple that specialize in Solidworks and Pro-E. Technology has caught up with Sunbelt. Can't do lots of things if don't have the business. John invited those present to visit Sunbelt and observe what it is they do.

Ray Grimes agrees that we need to introduce our programs to the grade school level students as well as the counselors. As a rule, counselors don't have a technical background. They don't understand things such as network security. As far as the City of Frisco (for which Ray works) they are not a big hiring entity. His IT department consists of only two people. One idea as to how quad-C can tap into the City of Frisco is with distance learning. Toni agreed; some things can be taught by distance, by simulation. Yet some still needs to be done hands-on. Frisco recently received money for training; the City will be working with quad-C CE to implement the training.

Wayne announced that John Wilkins was unable to attend and make his presentation, instead Joe Hackney will give the group an update on industry classes, eg STMicroelectronics, etc., a reflection of the industry and what's going on. Joe added that ST and Alcatel are our two major accounts. ST had 2 billion cash reserves, so they weathered better than others in the downturn. The HP section at ST is currently operating at full production. Some signs of Industry improvement are that degreed technicians seldom lose their jobs, even in a downturn. They have little job insecurity. Quad-C lost several students from Alcatel in the downturn. We have 93 ST students on the rolls, of those, 60 are active at any one time.

Ann added that if we can keep the community college offerings available to employers, it's a good moral booster. It's a cost effective method to keep the moral high. John Anselmi inquired if we have worked with Frito Lay? Toni said we have, off and on, to include high tech training and soft training. John feels the large companies, e.g. Penneys,

would benefit from our programs as well. Toni added that we have a good connection with EDS and others in the community. The interest, though, is in the mid-size companies whose resources are more limited. Joe added that we have suggested going into facility maintenance technician areas, as this affects small and large companies.

Wayne proceeded with the meeting by distributing and discussing the Effective Use of Advisory Committees. The goals are to be set by the Committee. We need to review our mission statement, workforce education program, we need help from the group to establish. We have to work together to ensure we have resources and correct curriculum. Need to ensure we are providing the necessary skills and knowledge to the students. Wayne requested feedback to energize the group so that when we meet next, we can create a program and be able to move forward.

John Anselmi asked if students are informed of reasonable salary expectations. Joe said yes, we do discuss it with the students. John sees that as a big problem; students have unrealistic expectations of salary. Ann feels we are not giving students unreasonable expectations. Ann inquired as to what other things may be causing problems. John indicated that, at one time, there were 50-60 different programs at other institutes who did a good job of selling their programs to advisors at the high school level. He added that he personally attends an industry convention in the Dallas area. He had suggested to a school that needs coverage to set up a booth, but they didn't send any reps. Ann informed him that we'd be happy to go. John said he would set that up for quad-C to attend to give us some exposure. Toni added that it would give us a good opportunity to speak to others at the convention.

Wayne continued by discussing NICET exams, which are administered here at PRC. He posed the question: should we focus more on the exam completed in the program. Joe Hackney said, yes; we used to do things differently. Didn't officially require it, but strongly urged students to take the exam. Joe used to teach a preparatory course for the NICET test. Ray Grimes asked what is the industry perception of our Advisory Committee? Ann commented that they don't really know about us. We're going to make more personal calls this year to improve interest and attendance. We want to work on different factors to improve. John Anselmi suggested contact Blockbusters in McKinney—there's room to put students there; he also suggested Encore Wire in McKinney—President is Vinnie Rigo.

Wayne said that a Toastmaster's job was to assign tasks to keep folks returning. He suggested that the group communicate as a group, and individually, throughout the year. Toni indicated that we're preparing a booklet of information on Advisory Committee Meetings to distribute updated information. Toni expressed her appreciation of the time given by the group. She inquired as to what is the best time/day, etc. for the next meeting. It was suggested another meeting be held in the fall, the day will be announced in the future once recruitment is updated.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00 a.m.