In Attendance

Members Present:
- Aileen Kennedy – Regional Recruiter, Equipment Depot
- Tony Remke – Owner, Remke’s Garage
- Duane Schroeder – Shop Foreman, CIT Trucks Rockford
- Jim Garner – Service Manager, CIT Trucks Rockford
- Marc McCarty – Assistant Service Manager, Ditch Witch Midwest
- Steve Deller – Product Support Manager, West Side Tractor
- Mike McElmeel – Owner, Bobcat of Rockford/Janesville
- Nick Darlak – 1st Year Student DPT
- Brandon Meier – 2nd Year Student DPT

KC Members Present:
- John Boesche – Diesel Power Technology Instructor
- Donovan Flink – Diesel Power Technology Instructor
- Mark Engel – Diesel Power Technology Instructor
- Matthew Bauer – Diesel Power Technology Instructor
- Chase Budziak – Dean, BTE

Review of Last Semester Minutes

John welcomes and thanks everyone for coming to the meeting. He invites everyone to introduce themselves.

John asked that everyone look over the meeting minutes from the spring semester advisory meeting. There are no questions or concerns with the minutes. Duane motions to accept the minutes, Marc approves. All in favor. Motion carries.

Fall 2019 Enrollment Results

For fall 2019, there has been a decrease in enrollment, not only for DPT but campus wide. DPT credit hours are down 21.9%. John emphasizes his concerns but does not know the reason behind the decline. He points out that there is a lot of demand in the work field right now, so people are just being hired without having to get a degree first. John also tells the committee about the KEC dual credit program and how this continues to be an excellent feeder program. He also mentions the recruiting that is done by the department.

Staffing

John states that there are two part-time instructors in the diesel power technology program teaching this fall. Tim Banasiak, who is a full-time automotive instructor, is currently teaching a section of DPT 178 and
a section of DPT 173. Greg Brink, who was the collision repair instructor, is currently teaching a section of DPT 175. He discusses how they’re always interested in talking to individuals who might be interested in teaching part time for the program. For the fall semester, they have an opportunity for a night truck brakes/suspension class. The class is typically held from 6:15-9:00pm, most likely held on Monday/Wednesday nights. Steve Deller asked if materials and curriculum are provided and the amount of preparation it takes to teach a class. John tells him that the instructors are more than willing to provide adjuncts with teaching materials. Tony Remke asks what the requirements are for teaching. John responds that they are preferably looking for someone to teach who has at least 10 years of experience and who has an AAS degree, but are flexible.

New Marketing Items

John reminds the committee of the discussion from the spring meeting about having banners made to promote the program. The banners could be hung up in the local high schools. John presented a couple possible examples of what the banner could look like including the company’s logos that would help sponsor the banners, and asked the committee for feedback. Steve Deller suggested having a balance of on and off highway equipment logos. Aileen questioned how many banners the department wanted to purchase and at what cost. Don Flink replied that an exact cost had not been determined, but approximately $50-100 would be the range. Steve, Jim and Aileen all suggested that the banner needs to have a large colorful logo (vehicle or machine) to attract attention. Steve and Tony Remke both recommended that the banner should include the high earning potential in the diesel industry. Steve also offered up his marketing department to help create the verbiage for the banner. Nick Darlak suggested that the company logos should be placed as a border around the banner to attract attention. Matt Bauer proposed three bullet points to keep it simple. John concluded by informing the committee that he would email updates to the members as the banner progressed.

Update on Donations/Purchases/Shop Equipment

John reminded the committee of the last donation being the engines from John Deere. He added that the program needs ECM’s, wiring harnesses, and software to support and run these engines. Steve said he is working toward getting the department these items.

Schedule Updates

Mark Engel started by providing the date for Interview Day (March 3, 2020). Mark also informed the committee that formal invitations will be coming within the next month. He reminded the members that last year Diesel had 12-14 businesses participate and urged members to RSVP early. He also let them know that he planned to host panel discussions in the DPT 101 class in February and would provide dates to the members in January. Marc McCarty told the members how well the panel discussions went last year and looked forward to participating again. Mark also gave the members a copy of the current program planner to show the reorganization of classes to help balance the load and ensure that students complete the program.

Skills USA Update

Don Flink explained to the committee what Skills USA is and that the diesel program currently has six students planning to participate. Steve asked how often the club meets and Don responded once a month to plan for fundraisers and prepare for the competitions. Aileen shard with the committee how she attended the
National competition last year and was blown away at the amount of endorsements that were included. Don encouraged the committee to look on You Tube for Mike Rowe at the competition. John finished the discussion by informing the members that the department does not teach to the test or require the students to participate. Students’ participation is completely optional. He also added that typically first year students that participate struggle but as second year members they do very well.

Field Trip

Matt Bauer told the committee about the fieldtrip the department went on in August. Students had the option to participate in a trip to the farm progress show in Decatur Illinois. Students who did attend had the opportunity to see the newest technology in farm equipment, semi-trucks, and light duty trucks, along with many other vendors that provide new innovations and aftermarket parts options.

Open Discussion/New Business

Jim Garner asks the instructors if they would be interested in recruiting at local high schools and technical centers with CIT. The advantage of teaming up would show students the potential career options after receiving their post-secondary education and training. John replied that this is something the department had never done but thought it was an excellent idea. Jim explained that CIT has been doing this with other technology schools for years to help encourage students to enroll in their programs, and that they have seen great results.

John returned to the discussion about the banner and asked the committee if a salary amount or range should be included. The committee responded no but the banner should inform the students of the high earning potential in this career field.

Next Meeting/Adjournment

Next Meeting: Tuesday March 3, 2020 approximately 2:30pm. This meeting will be immediately following Interview/ Dinning Etiquette day. The meeting will be held in the Caukin Building.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm on a motion made by Duane Schroeder and the motion was second by Marc McCarty.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Engel