

Date of Meeting: November 7, 2018  
Time of Meeting: 6:00pm  
Location of Meeting: Holt 136  
Name of Recorder: Alex Taddei

## College Mission Statement (BP 1200)

San Joaquin Delta Community College District serves the needs of students and the District community by providing excellent post-secondary education to the associate degree level, general education and preparation for transfer to other post-secondary institutions, career and technical education, economic development, and the development of intellectual autonomy. To achieve this objective, the faculty and staff are committed to offering high quality instructional programs, student services, and efforts to enhance the public good.

Using the institution's governance and decision-making process, the institution reviews its mission statement on a regular basis and revises it as necessary.

# Minutes

**Attendees:** Raul Hernandez (UA Local 442), Alex Demirjian (Miller Electric), John Herger (SJCOE), Jessie Ticer (student), Nathan Koblick (student), Rocky LaJeunesse (SJDC Counseling), Danell Hepworth (Division Dean), Josh Iris (Ace Electric Motor), Alex Taddei (Welding Professor).

## Welcome and Introductions

Meeting was called to order at 6:20pm by Alex Taddei. Time was allowed for all participants to introduce themselves and state their positions within their organizations.

## Approval of Minutes

First order of business was the reading of minutes from the May 2, 2018 Welding Advisory Meeting. After the present committee members were allowed time to review copies of the minutes, and a short question/answer period, Alex Demirjian made a motion to accept the minutes as read, with John Herger seconding the motion. All present voted unanimously to approve as read.

## Old Business

Alex Taddei gave a short report on the renovation progress in the Holt 129 and 136 classrooms/lab projects. It was reported that the new spaces have been occupied for over a year now and that classes are regularly conducted there. The new spaces have provided an improved working and learning environment and student/faculty feedback has been very positive.

## Program Updates

Alex Taddei reported that through the combination of funds acquired from Perkins and Strong Workforce grants, many new pieces of equipment have been put into service. The completion of the "work cell" area is now complete with the installation of the mill/drill and lathe pieces of machinery. Also of significance is the acquisition of 3 inverter based welding power supplies that have advanced features often utilized in today's manufacturing environment. Also requested and awarded were funds to secure a mobile, compact welding simulator that was easily transportable to local high schools and job fairs to increase awareness of Delta's Welding Program. As the simulator has just

arrived in the last week, initial manufacturer training will soon take place and the equipment will be utilized as soon as possible. Work also continues to retrofit the welding booths with stands that allow positioning of pieces to be welded in various orientations as so to improve and challenge the student's skill level. Alex also reported that the recent launching of "process specific" certificates seems to be going well based on the number of applications reported by students. This is sure to help more accurately capture student successes as they navigate the program curriculum.

## New Business

Alex Taddei reported that it appears, based on tonight's Town Hall meeting presentation, that the Welding Programs -Year III Strong Workforce Grant request, has been awarded. He reminded the group that based on their feedback and program improvement suggestions, that this proposal included the acquisition of a small industrial welding robot to accentuate the fabrication/automation component of curriculum. It is hopeful that this new equipment will be in place and functional by Summer 2019. It was at this time that Alex Taddei solicited the group for suggestions on program improvements that would help students develop the skills needed to coincide with any emerging trends in the welding and fabrication fields. This information is vital not only to guide the program on a path to achieve a high level of efficacy, but to ensure that future grant requests are relevant and affective. Copies of the core indicators (from the Chancellors Office) were distributed to the committee members for review. It was universally agreed that the area needing further improvement was the recruitment of students in the non-traditional/special population cohorts. Indications are that there has been improvement, but further efforts should be considered whenever possible. Alex Demirjian commented that the use of the new simulator would be a great way to increase awareness at local high schools. John Herger, who is a co-coordinator for the annual high school welding competition held at Delta, indicated that the event generates significant interest not only at his school, but the surrounding schools that participate. Raul Hernandez, who is a training coordinator for the Plumbers/Pipefitters Union, Local 442, indicated that they are always giving special consideration to these cohorts when applicants apply for apprenticeship. It was agreed universally that the present efforts should continue – while seeking new and innovative ways to recruit students in these cohorts. Alex Taddei once again asked the group if they thought and equipment or training media additions would be helpful to bolstering the program. Nathan Koblick and Jesse Ticer, both presently students in the program and close to completion, commented that they were appreciative of the new facilities and equipment. The students did however remark that there were still some older pieces of fabrication equipment in the Holt 129 Lab that due to age, were lacking in consistency of operation and precision. Alex Taddei commented that the equipment in question was in fact some of the older equipment (left over from when Delta hosted the Sheet Metal Apprenticeship Program) and had yet to be upgraded or replaced. John Herger suggested that perhaps these should be considered next when proposing program improvements that would be equipment related.

It was at this point that Alex Taddei brought up the topic of expanding certificate and degree offerings. Now that the Welding Program has increased the number of certificate offerings, the next possible step would be the consideration of an A.S. Degree for the Welding discipline. Rocky LaJeunesse commented that this would be beneficial for several reasons. He stated that he has had students ask about a welding degree at the counseling level – not so much as to pursue a transfer into a 4 year program, but to satisfy a requirement for financial aid application. Alex Taddei stated that as the student career path expands, an A.S. degree would be beneficial if pursuing Certified Welding Inspector status (required) or if considering an education/teaching position. Alex also stated that due to the recent work done on certificates, only general education courses

need be added to complete the requirements. Raul Hernandez made the motion that Alex Taddei should start the process of developing an A.S. degree and presenting it to the Curriculum Committee. John Herger seconded, unanimously passed during a vote.

Alex Taddei also brought up the recent discussion involving the updating and expansion of the Industrial Technology Certificate offerings. The renewed discussion was initiated due to the fact that it has become increasingly requested by local employers looking for industrial/food processing maintenance technicians – in which the present local job market is very strong. The present offering is limited to one certificate – or level -- and it has been suggested that a second level be added that would split into two emphasis areas – mechanical or electrical. These second level offering would mirror the structure of most maintenance operations in a processing plant or manufacturing environment. The preferred course of study within each certificate would incorporate a cross sampling of electrical, HVAC, machining, welding, automation, and industrial safety – among other pertinent topics. Raul Hernandez remarked that this is indicative of how the apprenticeship programs are also being conducted – the skill base is broadening within a given trade. The Plumbers/Pipefitter apprenticeship – in which Mr. Hernandez is a training coordinator – has increased the program time from 4 years to 5 years – so as to incorporate more electrical, controls, and HVAC. Alex Demirjian commented that on the customers he visits in the Central Valley and Bay Areas that have maintenance departments of any scope, have abandoned the “traditional”, single trade structure and have adopted a more cross skilled workforce. All in attendance agreed that there is value

in the creation of these certificates as they would give employers the ability to better select candidates based on their stated training-for a better “fit” into a given position to be filled. Alex Taddei stated that he was encouraged by the positive feedback the committee had expressed – and with their permission would relay this information back to the committee formed to address the creation/modification of the Industrial Technology Certificate program.

All on the Welding Advisory Committee, by a show of hands, recommended that the committee formed with the task of further developing these certificates, continue to do so, with their support.

## **Other**

Alex Taddei relayed some dates concerning upcoming events to be held over the next few months. The annual high school welding competition “Welding Showdown” is to be held January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The SkillsUSA Region 5 skills and leadership event will be held on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019. As always, the request for anyone that can help by volunteering for these events – is greatly appreciated.

## **Next Meeting**

Tentatively scheduled for March 2019

## **Adjournment**

7:25pm