Mechanized Agriculture Department

Advisory Committee Meeting

September 28, 2017

Bakersfield College Administrative Conference Room

Meeting was called to order at 3:30pm

Members present :

Matt Riley- Professor, Bakersfield College

Jerry McKellar- Berchtold Equipment Company

Jayson Heard- Berchtold Equipment Company

Mike Schott- Bolthouse Farms

Tim Swatzell- Gibbs International

Chuck Brummer- Kern Machinery Inc

Santiago Alcantar- Kern Machinery Company

Corny Rodriguez- Dean, Bakersfield College

Cindy Collier- Dean Bakersfield College

Corny Rodriguez asked the committee present questions regarding job demand and starting salaries for Equipment technicians in the Kern County area.

Chuck Brummer replied that Kern Machinery company is always in need of technicians and training 30 students a year to enter industry would not put a dent in the local demand for technicians

Jerry McKellar agreed with Chucks statement and added that all mechanics they hire start at the state set minimum wage of $21 per hour. Both Chuck and Tim confirmed this as well.

Mike Schott replied that Bolthouse farms always has the need for technicians as well but they do not typically start new hires at as high of a rate because they provide the tools their mechanics use. HE stated they start technician around $17 per hour depending on training but they do advance in pay as their skills grow

Matt Riley Introduced his plan for Bakersfield Colleges Heavy Equipment Technician Program and AS degree, discussing and reviewing the proposed sequence of courses, individual course objectives, and the hours students would spend training. Every person present was given a course outline to review and offer feedback.

Santiago requested we include technical writing skills in each course as they require their technicians to communicate the repairs completed on customer equipment in the form of a written description attached to the service order- All members agreed

Tim Requested we add SCR systems to the emissions units to cover the entire industry- All members agreed.

**Matt asked the committee present for approval** of the proposed courses and pathway- **All members approved the proposed courses and pathway sequence**

Mike added holding up the program template “if I had an applicant come in showing me this and he had learned these skills I would hire him every time”. Jerry and Chuck both agreed

Meeting adjourned 5:10pm