

Human Services and Technology Division
Automotive Department Advisory
Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, April 25, 2023
Time: 5:00pm – 6:00pm
Location: Santa Ana College, Automotive Department, J-103

Attendees: John Sacherson (OCADA), Dr. David Roper, Dr. Larisa Sergeyeva, Matthew Bittner, Dr. Jeffrey Lamb, Keith Andreasen, Jaime Lopez, Zeke Hernandez, Jaime Gonzalez (See roster of Dealership Representatives)

Agenda:

1. Introductions
2. Purpose of Advisory Meeting
3. Budget review
4. Curriculum overview
5. Class scheduling
6. Evaluation and Recommendations from committee

Meeting Minutes

1. Introduction:
2. Purposed of Advisory Meeting:
 - The purpose of the meeting was to gather input from dealership/partners.
3. Budget Review:
 - The department's budget is approximately \$7,500 per academic year, which is supplemented by grants.
 - Several grants have been successfully secured, totaling over \$200,000, to purchase hybrid transmissions, supplies, and equipment.
 - David Roper is continually obtaining grants to purchase instructional supplies. The AUTO Department also accepts car donations. Have received 1.6 million in grants since David's tenure.
 - Suggestions were requested for budget allocation, particularly for EV-related equipment and DC fast chargers.
 - Equipment and Tool Recommendations
 - Rich Rader: Recommended purchasing EV-related items. It was mentioned that the California Motor Association will be launching a pilot program in this area.
 - Ed Montanez: Proposed obtaining a grant through ChargePoint to support the implementation of DC Fast Charge.
 - Jesus Inocencio: Suggested acquiring three additional On-Car Brake Lathes.
 - Mike Swistak: Proposed using Pico scopes with laptops, with a requirement of 24 items (one per student).
 - Jesus Inocencio: Recommended purchasing 24 Fluke 88 DMMs.
4. Curriculum:
 - Approval of New Certificates:
 - **Automotive Applied Skills Certificate of Achievement**
 - Description: This certificate is for students seeking hands-on applications and skill building. Courses in the certificate are aimed at providing students with applied skills in four major automotive topics.

- The first certificate, consisting of 9-unit lab-only classes, was motioned for approval by Rich Rader and seconded by Gary Barr. The vote resulted in unanimous approval with no opposing votes or abstentions.
- ***Automotive Essentials Certificate of Achievement***
- The certificate in Automotive Essentials provides students with theoretical knowledge and understanding of the operations and functions of four major automotive areas. This certificate is designed for students seeking knowledge without hands-on applications. Students completing this certificate may find employment in non-technical automotive areas.
- The second certificate, involving inclusion of existing classes into a new certificate, was motioned for approval by Rudy Mesa and seconded by Ed Montanez. The motion received unanimous support with no opposing votes or abstentions.
- Curriculum Review (learning how to be a tech curriculum)
 - Several points were raised and discussed, including the need for a class on auto communications (possibly AUTO 101) to cater to students who may have struggled in school. It was emphasized that there should be a focus on developing soft skills and communication abilities, as technicians need to effectively explain their work to customers.
 - Examples were provided, such as Mercedes using technician videos to explain service requirements, and the suggestion of bringing in a class from VAR to train advisors.
 - It was noted that the dealership environment requires more than just technical skills, and there is an opportunity to expand the curriculum to include subjects like accounting, finance, and business to meet the diverse needs of dealerships.
 - The challenge of teaching writing and verbal skills within the dealership setting was highlighted, and the idea of creating shorter, targeted modules or programs to address these specific needs was discussed, SAC can help meet those needs.
 - A suggestion was made to explore the use of tools and programs to assist in training students in video skills, citing the example of Mercedes supplying phones and iPads for creating videos.
 - The possibility of raising funds (approximately \$50,000) to hire a company to develop a program addressing these digital literary curriculum gaps was proposed.
 - The need for improved support staff in terms of appearance, communication skills, and presentation was acknowledged, and the importance of discussing professional appearance and career progression with students at an early stage was emphasized.
 - It was mentioned that introductory courses cover writing skills, while DSL (Dealer Service Level) courses include lectures on SP2, covering ethics, safety, and behavior.

5. Class Scheduling

- It was discussed that courses are offered in the morning, afternoon, and evening to cater to different schedules.
- Dealerships were encouraged to hire part-time employees in pairs.
- The current status of the hybrid course delivery format was mentioned, with 5/20 courses being offered in a hybrid format. It was noted that many students prefer in-person courses.

6. Evaluation and Recommendations from Committee

- Bachelor's Degree Option for Community Colleges
 - The possibility of community colleges offering bachelor's degree programs, as long as they do not replicate what UC and CSU institutions offer, was discussed.
 - The question of whether students would benefit from obtaining a bachelor's degree in this field was raised.
 - It was mentioned that there is no extra advantage to taking additional courses beyond an associate degree, and it may even be detrimental to their career prospects. The focus should be on providing practical training, enabling students to progress within the dealership and be motivated to earn a living.
 - The idea of offering the last two years of the bachelor's degree program in a more theory-based online format was considered.

- It was noted that, from a commitment standpoint, a dealership might hire someone with a bachelor's degree, but they would not be able to offer higher pay compared to someone with an associate degree.
- Digital Badges
 - Jaime Gonzalez provided an update on the development of digital badges, similar to LinkedIn, where students can obtain a badge upon completing a certain achievement or course.
 - The question was raised regarding the value of these badges to dealerships. It was acknowledged that completing a badge is not significantly different from completing a class, but the aim is to provide motivation for students.
 - It was mentioned that there will be a mechanism for employers to access and validate the badges.
 - The potential for using the OC Auto Dealers website to publish the badges was discussed.
 - The value of badges in identifying students with specific soft skills, such as communication and negotiation abilities, was highlighted.
 - Jaime- Email David for any dealership interested in hosting students for an internship program for the summer
- Mentorship Program
 - Jaime encouraged interested dealerships to contact David regarding hosting students for an internship program during the summer.
- Diesel
 - Jaime informed the attendees about the plan to change the name of DSL to Diesel-Electric Transportation Technology to better align with the evolving needs of the industry.
 - The DSL advisory meeting scheduled for May 10 was mentioned.
- Christy
 - It was noted that there will be a presentation by Christy with students, followed by a job fair. Further details were not provided.

Sign-in Sheet

Santa Ana College, Automotive Department Advisory Committee. April 25, 2023, 5:00-5:45pm

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