

Imperial Valley College/San Diego State University/Workforce Development
Renewable Energy Advisory Committee
-Minutes-

Thursday, May 1, 2014
07:30-09:00
SDSU's Center for Energy Sustainability
Brawley, California

Members Present: Desiree Bryant, Dave Edwards, Frank Marquez, Ricardo Jimenez, Michael Moore, Lee Ostlund and Bruce Townsend

Members Absent: Sergio Cabanas, Rosa Dominguez, Charlie Hosken, Mike Lopez, Arkie Mayes, Jesse Montano, Edwin Oberfell, Tracy Rascoe, Michael Sabath, Efrain Silva and Jim Turner

Guests: Tina Aguirre, John Fahim, Allyn Leon, and Armando Ramirez

Presiding: Glen Allegranza

Recorder: Rick Johnson

Informational Items/Minutes:

- Mr. Allegranza called the meeting to order at 7:35.
- Introductions
 - Mr. Allegranza welcomed Ms. Tina Aguirre, IVC; Mr. Allyn Leon, IVC; and Mr. Larry McLaughlin, COD to the meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Townsend moved to approve the February 13, 2014 minutes as presented (one correction by Mr. Fahim).

SECOND: Mr. Edwards

VOTE: Unanimous

Presentation – Ms. Tina Aguirre and Mr. Allyn Leon on IVC's Engineering Program

- Mr. Leon offered the committee a brief overview of IVC's commitment to increase enrollment within mathematics and engineering courses.
 - Overview of pre-engineering curriculum
 - Possible partnership with CETYS. Mr. Johnson encouraged Mr. Leon to invite SDSU to the next collaborative meeting with CETYS. Discussion ensued.
 - Students are finding it a challenge to transfer into four year universities due to a lack of course offerings at IVC.
 - Currently, 20 students are interested in enrolling into a statics course.
- Discussed the challenges of offering advanced mathematics and engineering courses due to instructor recruitment. Discussion ensued
 - Requirements established by the State of California.
 - Mr. Johnson suggested and Ms. Ostlund concurred, that they recruit within industry such as IID, Simbol, Cal Energy, etc.

- An interactive discussion ensued about the development of alternative methods of delivery (e.g. teleconferencing, online courses, off site classrooms, SDSU classrooms, etc.). Mr. Edwards suggested scheduling classes for the working person. Mr. Edwards will follow-up with educational links for online training.

Current/Proposed Projects - SDSU:

- Rick Johnson, SDSU provided the committee updates for ongoing projects at the Center for Energy Resources, which included:
 - Informed the committee that Sol Orchard's project has been completed with an anticipated commission sometime in May.
 - Explained to the committee that the Power Plant Simulator is progressing nicely with a post meeting demonstration. Anticipated installment in late May with train-the-trainer sessions TBD.
 - Apprised the committee that the Hyperlight project has been completed. Testing was completed in late March and early April. An invitation for Hyperlight's Commissioning will be forwarded to each committee member.
 - Brief updates on the LEIDOS, Soitic and Interra projects.
 - SDSU is seeking funding through WIA/WIB in order to provide the Renewable Energy Foundation course to Simbol employees. Mr. Johnson informed the committee that Simbol would like to see the course institutionalized and serve as an applicant pool. Additionally, it is the goal of Mr. Johnson to develop some of the components as online coursework.
 - Recapped a series of meetings between Cal Energy and various educational entities and service providers within the southeastern region of California with an anticipated commencement during fall 2014. Mr. McLaughlin added that various community colleges are working on current curriculum that will benefit industry. Ms. Bryant inquired if the local community college is NCCER certified or can it become a certifying agency. Discussion ensued.

Current/Proposed Projects - IVC:

- Rick Johnson updated the committee on the following items:
 - Updated the committee on the construction of the new technology building. "Open House" is this morning at 09:30.
 - Informed the committee that the NSF Grant received by IVC has not spent all of the ± \$200,000 award, therefore an extension has been granted. Mr. Johnson added that IVC has not planned a successor to the PI position. On the other hand, SDSU may fund a tenure track professor through funds generated by Sol Orchard. Never the less, Mr. Johnson expressed an urgency to complete the numerous projects initiated by the committee.
 - Informed the committee that IVC was resubmitting the TACCCT grant with some minor changes. Mr. Johnson stated that one difficulty was obtaining a current labor market survey that identified jobs within the renewable energy industry. Discussion ensued

- Mr. Johnson inquired into what positions are currently needed within industry. Members stated people in maintenance, technicians, mechanics, operators and engineers.
- Mr. Johnson inquired about welders. Only one welder has been hired within industry that was represented. It was pointed out that IVC is hiring a new welding instructor, prioritizing the position at the highest level (#1) while a renewable energy instructor was ranked lower (#8).
- Ms. Aguirre explained the entire ranking process. Discussion ensued.

Action Items:

- None
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New Business:

- Ms. Aguirre will send the appropriate link for teaching requirements at IVC.
- Mr. McLaughlin suggested that this would be a good time to develop cooperative agreements with trade unions. He explained that there is a push within California to establish additional apprenticeship programs. In the long run, this will benefit the local labor force and economy.

Next Meeting:

TBD
07:30-09:00
Center for Energy Sustainability

Adjournment: 9:00