

Imperial Valley College
Water Treatment Technology
Program Advisory Committee

December 10, 2009

12:00PM Room 1101

Minutes

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Efrain Silva at 12:06 pm.

2. Introductions

Efrain Silva introduced himself as the new Dean of Economic and Workforce Development. Everyone else introduced themselves.

3. Program Advisory Committee

Program advisory committees generally meet twice a year to review the curriculum, provide ideas, and review the program.

Efrain asked if all the individuals present would like to become or continue as members of the IVC Water Treatment Program Advisory Committee. All agreed. Jesus Marquez said he was there in place of Arturo Estrada from the City of Calexico, but he confirmed that Mr. Estrada was interested.

Efrain asked if the Water and Wastewater Treatment courses were transferable to a university and Jose Plascencia answered yes.

Joe Cornejo asked if some existing courses were more important than others. Frank Cornejo answered that all the courses are different, but equally important.

4. Water Treatment Program Review

Program Approvals

Efrain stated that any revised or new curriculum and the application for the programs needed to be submitted internally by January 2010 and sent to the State in February 2010. If the application was not submitted this fiscal year, the program will be eliminated. Joe Cornejo will be working on this project during the winter break.

Pre-treatment and Collections

There was discussion on whether or not Pre-Treatment was required by Water Treatment agencies. Some members said yes and other said not yet.

There was discussion on whether or not Collections is required for a certificate. Members agreed that Collections is not required now, but may be in the future, possibly in 5-10 years.

Felix De Leon said that knowledge of Collections would make for a better job candidate, but would recommend that we add it to the curriculum in the future.

Lab

Felix De Leon mentioned that having a wet lab would be beneficial. He usually takes his students to a lab several times a semester, but having a hands-on lab available on campus is important. The members recommended adding a wet lab, if possible, to the programs as well.

Internships

There was discussion on students being required to do internships in order to complete the program. Patty mentioned that there is already an approved Work Experience course taught by Judy Santistevan that could be added as a recommended course. Efrain suggested adding it as a required course, but some members worried that students would not fulfill that requirement and therefore not finish the program. The members recommended that the internship course be added to the Water Treatment and Wastewater Treatment programs as a recommended course. The members recommended that the students learn general job skills.

Other Educational Institutes

Efrain asked what other colleges in the region offer Water Treatment. Members mentioned that Cuyamaca College and Palomar College both in San Diego, and a college in Yuma, AZ were the only ones.

Introduction Class

Jose Flores suggested adding an Introduction to Water and Wastewater Treatment class. He said this class should include an overview of the water systems and of the industry in general. Matthew Hughes agreed that an introduction class is necessary.

Some members felt that the Water Distribution class was crammed into one class. They said that a Grade 1 operator needed more hands-on instruction and less focus on administration.

Basic Math Skills

The main issue with Water and Wastewater Treatment students is that they do not have enough math skills. Members recommended requiring or recommending a certain level of math for the classes.

5. Job Opportunities

Workforce

Felix De Leon explained that the Water Treatment workforce is in the retirement stage because of the baby boomers getting ready to retire, and according to a study, in 2010 there will be about 250 jobs available in San Diego alone. Randy

Hines agreed that in the next five years there would not be much of an employee turnover, but in the next 5-15 years the turnover would be huge and there would be a shortage of Operators-in-Training (OIT's). The salary range for an OIT is between \$11 and \$27/hour. A Grade 1 would typically start at \$11/hour. IVC does not offer classes after Grade 3.

Local Needs

Matthew Hughes, Lucas Agatep, and Hector Muñoz said that they are in need of at least one employee. Although more jobs are available outside of Imperial Valley, the members agreed that, yes, it is very important to teach these classes here locally because many students cannot attend Water Treatment courses outside of the valley.

Regional Needs

Several members explained that there are a lot of jobs out of the valley. There is a website called bcwaterjobs.com that lists available jobs in Water Treatment and Wastewater Treatment.

Environmental Field

Kimberly Counts-Lineses said that Water Treatment and Wastewater Treatment programs are very important in the environmental field in general because of the knowledge gained on regulations and hazardous waste, etc.

6. Other

Certification

It was mentioned that CWEA, the California Water Environment Association, is a volunteer certificate program that includes lab, pre-treatment, maintenance, collections, etc. It was mentioned that the Wastewater Treatment certificate is the most difficult to obtain.

Classes Taken in Past

There was discussion on credit to students that have taken classes in the past. Jose Plascencia clarified that these cases would be seen on a case-by-case basis and student petitions are available to repeat courses.

Outreach

The representatives were asked to contact us if interested in participating in the IVC Applied Sciences Expo and in the IVC Career Fair.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled for January 14, 2010 at 12:00 pm in the IVC Industrial Technology Auto Tech Lab.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Joe Cornejo.