

ITP Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2008
11am-1pm
Community Education Center
Holbrook AZ 86025

Present:

Bob Ashcraft
Paul Clark
William Bulow
Kenny Keith
Todd White
Ernie Tomlinson
Hugh Moulton
Chester Crandell
Dr. Eric Henderson
Ron Squire
Don Softly
Karalee Kowren
Peggy Belknap
Rose Lee Jaquez
Michelle Stewart
Don Nicholas
Bob Martineau
Kathy McPherson

Paul Clark welcomed everyone to the meeting. Paul had set up a presentation with a company from Canada. The presentation was titled "Automation Studio Presentation"; it was presented by Christian Proteau via teleconference. The software would cost \$12,000, which would be installed on twenty computers. The software is used by major companies. It is powerful – but easy to use. When a customer purchases the software – online training is available. The presentation lasted about twenty minutes. Paul, Kenny and Bob Martineau saw this software on their trip to San Juan College, and were very impressed with it.

After the presentation, everyone introduced themselves to the group. Peggy asked Ernie if it were true that he was retiring – he stated that yes it was true. The minutes from the September meeting were approved. Peggy asked the group what they thought about the software that they had just seen demonstrated. The group had a discussion about how you access the software – Paul stated that it is accessed through the internet. The question was raised if there would be an annual fee – Paul stated that he did not know but that he would make a phone call and find out.

For the most part, everyone liked it. Dan Nicholas stated that he thought it would be a great teaching tool. They liked that it could be done on computer work stations and asked how it could be incorporated into the classrooms.

Rose Lee Jaquez spoke about current and future training needs. She also stated that the program needs to be looked at again – what is currently being used has been in place since 1998. She asked the instructors to give their input on what works for them. Bob Martineau stated that the big issues are faculty, facilities and funding. He also said that complete hands-on doesn't work; he is trying to teach theory based on everything. The students need both hands-on and theory. He would like to get NCCER certification. Chester Crandell stated that we need plant specific training. Journeymen are needed for a student to test out for NCCER – journeymen need to be identified. He also said that industries need to become accredited assessment centers.

Bob Martineau stated that the next step is to move into skills, which would be ITP 270 and 271. He said that 80% of people hired at APS start in operations and then after a few years they move on to maintenance. Peggy stated that the degree is designed to add courses with more emphasis to the degree. The areas for improvement were that the maintenance side needs to be cleaned up. The core should be level 1 a semester, level 2 a semester, etc. Karalee asked if the group agrees to follow NCCER sequencing – everyone said yes. Todd White stated that he got on the NCCER website but did not find much information about power plants – he could not find a definition. Dan Nicholas stated what each level of training consists of. He likes what he has seen so far with NCCER. Bob Martineau stated that the students need to be able to work on the equipment. He teaches E/I technicians at the plant, and for NPC he teaches the operations side. Chester told Todd that he would be glad to sit down with him to show him the classes. He also stated that you have control of who you put in there if you are a training center through NCCER; they tell you what books to use. Dan would like to see an internship – a year round program.

Bob Martineau stated that the job shadowing program is going well; there is a list of people who want to sign up. The students are saying they are having fun and learning. He has never had any bad feedback on the program. Dan Nicholas stated that a shift supervisor said that it is going very well. Three students from the NAVIT program will be job shadowing at APS this weekend. Four students come from Phoenix once a week for class at Cholla.

Discussion concerning NCCER curriculum consumed the remaining time with no clear consensus. The next meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2008.