

## **Minutes**

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

**Accounting and Business**

**JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

March 27, 2025

Anna Whitten Hall (Rm 306)

7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

Steve Walman called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m., introduced himself, and welcomed everyone. Attendee introductions followed.

### **II. Member Roll Call and Guests**

**Accounting** – Alison Nord, Kim Rohr, Steve Walman, Cheri Abbe, Clay Calkins, Susan Nicholson

**Business** – Barbara Blankenship, Marty Adams, Valerie Owens, Bethann Talsma, Steve Walman

**Office Occupations** – Bethann Talsma,

**KVCC Administration** Mary McConnell

**Students** – Ex Student – Susan Nicholson

**Guests** – none

### **III. Approval of Minutes**

Steve Walman opened the floor for discussion of the previous meeting minutes for each committee. Motion to approve the previous minutes as presented was made by Cheri Abbe; seconded by Kim Rohr. Motion passed.

### **IV. Program Updates - Overview of Current Accounting/Business**

Trends were shared for each program. Accounting graduates are becoming fewer – it's not a jazzy degree in today's world. Bethann discussed possible changes to Office Administration program, enrollment, other colleges, etc. Kim Rohr and Cheri Abbe shared their experiences teaching ACC classes.

**V. Perkins Core Performance Indicator** – did not have Perkins data, so anecdotal evidence of graduation and post-graduation was discussed– Steve Walman mentioned he tracks students via Linked-In review of program level performance – utilizing ACC 220 the capstone course. State and federally funded. What can Perkins be used for? Funding can go to supporting equipment, faculty development, and non-traditional students in different occupations

### **VI. Comprehensive Needs Assessment Input**

- a. **Satisfaction with student placements** – Steve Walman stated that most ACC 220 Accounting graduates are employed – tracking through Linked-In.
- b. **Satisfaction with skill level of graduates** - Clay Calkins mentioned he was

satisfied with KVCC Accounting graduates knowledge and ability at the CPA firm he is employed at.

**c. Are there gaps in skills that our students present?**

Not so much gaps but emphasis on critical thinking and soft skills.

**d. Are there gaps in the program?**

Again – not so much gaps because our ACC program is one of the most comprehensive in Michigan.

**e. Suggestions for improving student and graduate's success.**

The difficulty of obtaining post-graduation data was discussed.

Bethann led discussion on importance of credentials needing to be recognized in the industry.

## **VII. New Business and/or projects**

Accounting programs and applications were discussed, Possible Certification programs were discussed which includes 3<sup>rd</sup> party programs, MOS, Free trainings, QuickBooks. There was discussion on the impact of Certifications – Clay Calkins stated it was not that important – but overall Certifications are good. Barb Blankenship shared her experiences working for government – Kalamazoo Township and the differences of government operations v. business operations.

Susan Nicholson – conducted a survey at Trillium Staffing – Two Trillium employees filled out a survey for what they look for in ACC skill sets. Results pointed towards the importance of knowing the basics well, ability to prepare the 4 financial statements, Soft Skills, Critical thinking, Excel including VLOOKUP and Macros, QuickBooks, Sage, ERP, Tax software, Power BI, and using PDF's.

Steve Walman mentioned that the ACC and BUS programs both require BUS 207 – ...Organizational Behaviors – is an intensive soft skill course.

Valerie Owens mentioned that EDU 104 covers soft skills.

Clay Calkins and Mary McConnell mentioned the importance of soft skills and critical thinking. Microsoft Office still important – especially Excel and Word.

Susan Nicholson suggested that our ACC 205 AREC/APAY course be reviewed for effectiveness and efficiency.

Alison Nord – topic of certifications and she in the process of strengthening the ACC 205. Topic by Alison of AI – Chatgpa and Copilot. Possible tours of Businesses would be nice for students.

Marty Adams mentioned the importance of classes like analytics, etc.

## **VIII. Old Business/Timelines**

The importance of soft skills and critical thinking were discussed again.

**IX. Updates from around the college**

Steve Walman talked to administration about having Perkins data posted periodically to the Canvas Perkins website – so instructors and chairs have up to date access.

**Next meeting date, time and location**

TBD – Middle of October – Friday morning.

Notices will go out in advance.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Bethann, seconded by Alison to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM. Motion passed.