Minutes – EDMT Advisory Committee

March 3, 2023 – Room 3250 1:00-2:00 pm

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

I. Welcome & Introductions – 12:45 pm

II. Member Role Call
- Members present: Bill Kring, Dave Brock, Peter Grohs, Rick Wood, Jim Williams, Jennifer Swan, Marvin Gage, Brian Stewart, Mike Loehr, Patrick Quigley, Chris Orlowski

III. Call to approve minutes from last meeting
- Motion to approve by Pat Quigley, with an amendment made to page 4, item K—should say "Pat" instead of "Chad". Motion seconded by Marvin Gage.

IV. Program Updates – Review of planned EDMT course changes
- Discussion on the plan to merge courses EDMT 100 (Fundamentals of Tech Drawing) and EDMT 104 (Blueprint Reading).
    i. Manual Drafting is not utilized on its own often, apart from some complications with certain apprenticeships. The use of 2D CAD software can teach everything done manually.
    ii. Noted – Eliminating EDMT 104 does not have to mean eliminating the teaching of manual drawing altogether—will be incorporated into EDMT 100 course.
    iii. Jim Williams emphasized a need for good designers in the industry.
- Many courses will be reevaluated with strategy changes to increase transferability to WMU
- 102 (Basics Mechanical Technology)
    i. Bump from a 2 credit to 3 credit class; incorporate some topics from 210 (Kinetics of Mechanisms), which would be inactive. Not a huge change on the EDMT program, but possibly for other departments the class serves.
- 130 (Tech Drawing w/AutoCAD)
    i. Name change to "Technical Drafting"; increased transferability to WMU. Will continue to teach AutoCAD in the course
- 140 (Production Drafting/GD&T)
    i. Seek to transfer to WMU
- 145 (Descriptive Geometry)

i. Looking at dropping from program. Committee agreed the material is not taught by many schools anymore; fundamentals of the course can be taught in other classes

- 171 (SolidWorks)
  i. Name and strategy change to 3-2-3, seek to transfer to WMU
  ii. Market the class as taught with SolidWorks, but with a focus on parametric design
- 215 (Statistics Strength of Materials)
  i. Change the pre-req math requirement to Technical Math or Precalc. (currently Technical Math or Trigonometry)
  ii. Would be a smoother track for students, more streamlined for transfer
- 225 (Comp Aided Simulation w/ FEA)
  i. Seek transfer to WMU
- 245 (Machine Design)
  i. Strategy change to 3-2-3, incorporate topics from 210 (Kinetics of Mechanisms), seek transfer to WMU
- 260 (Metallurgy/Mechanical Testing)
  i. Strategy change to 3-2-3, increases transferability to WMU
  ii. Possible change to a once-a-week half-sized lab class; hoping to be less disruptive to student' schedules
    1. Lab would be 3 hours once a week, with students split into two groups for smaller lab (i.e. 6 students in two separate once-a-week 3-hour offerings, versus the current 12 students in one twice-a-week 1.5-hour lab)
- 271 "Advanced SolidWorks" class
  i. Looking to develop as a new course; software package specific CAD class
  ii. Would require EDMT 171 as a pre-req or instructor permission
- Plans to form a smaller committee to talk about the course changes

V. Perkins Core Performance Indicator – review of program-level performance

- Review was focused mainly upon the "Enrollment by Declared Program" data
- All departments in the college are losing enrollment due to a higher workforce need as well as KVCC programs becoming more expensive across the college
- Looking at changing Engineering Technology, one of the highly-declared programs; more students are stopping out at the 2-year mark versus transferring to WMU
- Marvin Gage noted if there was an increase in older age (26+) students due to the state-funded tuition initiative; Peter Grohs agreed it's a popular program
- The total head-count hasn't varied much, just shifting of the student base between declared programs

VI. Comprehensive Needs Assessment – a continuing check-in with employers on how KVCC students are performing in the workplace

- Satisfaction with student placement & skill level of graduates
    i. Jim Williams- 4-5 students, very happy with them
    ii. Chris Orlowski- graduates are great, smart, no complaints
    iii. Mike Loehr- has 2 students, they're the best employees; went from no experience to the highest performing
- Are there gaps in skills that students present?
    i. Mike Loehr- Mastercam and CAD/CAM. More integration between CAD students and CAM students to leverage both strengths. Possible avenue to involve apprenticeships
    ii. Chris Orlowski- Metallurgy was a great addition
- Are there gaps in the program?
    i. Brian Stewart- Would like to see more focus on a tool and dye/stamping class. Hard to find dye makers. Most students are great on the machine-side, but weak on dye. Chris Orlowski seconded that he doesn't see a lot of tool and dye. Bill Kring noted more students would be needed in order to run the class; it's not just a company-issue but area-wide is lacking in tool and dye makers.
- Suggestions for improving student and graduate's success
    i. The biggest point from the committee was the need for more availability of night classes.
        1. Dave Brock- seeking out more spaces on campus to teach night classes; lack of classrooms as well as scheduling has impacted the ability to hold more courses at night
    ii. Peter Grohs and Jennifer Swan agreed that teaching EDMT courses online is a struggle; students want to get away from online classes and back to in-person.

VII. New business and/or projects; discuss emerging trends in the industry

- Struggling to compete with companies offering competitive pay to workers
- Marvin- hard to encourage students to follow trades that pay the same as grocery stores or factory labor
- Bill Kring- on the local level, competing with medical companies i.e. Pfizer and Zoetis; paying very well for students at their skill level to work in Packaging
- Brian- hard to find an employee with pride, who cares about the work they're doing

VIII. Timeline for recommended action plans

- Subcommittee for course changes will be formed within the next couple of weeks. Would like to see those changes implemented for Fall ’24 semester

IX. Updates from around the college
- Bill Kring- Installation is finishing on a new 5-Axis Mill machine, a capital project from last year

X. Set next meeting date, time, and location
- Next meeting is planned for early Fall 2023, time to be determined closer-to.

XI. Adjournment – Dave Brock made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Peter Grohs. Meeting adjourned at 2:03 PM.