Palomar College

Auto Body Repair & Refinishing

Advisory Committee Meeting

October 24, 2013

6:00 pm in Room ITC-107

Chairman: David Wright, Assistant Professor of Auto Body

Members: David Tovar of Super Bike Paint, Mike Adams of Bowden’s Auto Body, Chuco Paredes of Meza Automotive Paint, Adam Suitts of Ideal Paint & Body (new AT-50 part-time instructor), Sal Ramirez of Southwest Paint Products, Tom McMurdo of Auto Body of San Marcos, and Dennis Lutz, Department Chairman of Trade and Industry at Palomar College.

Introductions: David welcomed the members to the first auto body advisory committee meeting. He asked members to sign the attendance log and began the introductions.

The committee received copies of the Auto Body course outlines of record. There was a mention of the purpose, content, and function. The guideline for numbering courses was explained and Palomar gives the core skill-set that can be part of the AS degree for students. Adam Suitts moved and Sal Ramirez seconded that the renumbering would be good for the program. Committee unanimously agreed that it would be good for the program to renumber each of the courses above 100 so they could be degree electives for those transferring to a four-year institution as well as an AS degree from Palomar.

David explained that he really needs to have an aide in each of his laboratory components due to the fact that the paint booth is removed from the lab. The class would run smoother with a lab tech/aide to get the tools and materials the students may need for their concurrent lab class while the instructor has stepped over to the paint booth. The aide could also have eyes on the safety of the shop while David takes the student to set up the project in the paint booth. The committee agreed and supports David going forward with securing the approval and funding.

The budget string that is attached to auto body is the same as that for automotive mechanical. At the state level, there is an advantage to having a separate TOPS code. They encouraged David to pursue that effort.

David introduced the concept of having a Palomar College Foundation account set up to receive donations for scholarships and special technology projects. The accounts could be several separate accounts through the Foundation that would accept donations to which ever account the person wants to contribute.

The Committee was very involved with discussion about equipment requests/needs. They inquired about a paint mixing/storage room for hazardous materials/waste. They said that would be at the top of the list of necessities for an auto body facility and an educational institution should not be an exception.

There is one paint simulator machine in the shop for all the students to train on technique. It is very realistic with sound, touch, resistance, and response. Each student signs on to the computer and it keeps a record to show skill improvement. The student wears a 3-D mask over his/her eyes. The simulator computer evaluates each student on all phases of the effort. It evaluates how much “paint” was used and what was lost to waste. Quality of the spray coverage is also evaluated. The simulator is a huge benefit to students/program as there is timely feedback that is objective and consistent which gives guidance to developing the painting technique. There is no waste, no mess to clean-up, and no hazardous waste to process. We actually could easily use several more simulators so students could have time to use them more than once a week. Committee participated in a demonstration and is completely endorsing the purchase of more paint simulators.

David pointed out that he needs several lap tops so more than one student can have access to Mitchel on Demand interactive on-line software for repairs and estimating costs. There are as many as five students at a time waiting to use the program on the computer. Committee concurred.

Title V changes do not allow students to repeat a course. That significantly impacts disciplines that have a lab component that is designed to develop a hands-on skill set such as auto body repair. We are looking for ways to condense instructional delivery, purchase learning software, and expand the real and virtual teaching/learning aides to empower students to gain confidence, experience their potential, sense their accomplishment, and succeed.

The committee went with David to tour the facility.

David invited the committee to take the copies of the course outlines home to review them. Please give him a call, if there are questions and recommendations.

Minutes Submitted by:

David Wright and Beverly Scott