**Cabinet & Furniture Technology**

 **Advisory Meeting Minutes**

**April 7, 2014**

Attending the meeting:

Dave Thomsen, Staff Instructor

Jack Stone, Staff Instructor

Phil Goettsch. Classified Employee

Kathleen Steffen, TA

Nathan Boehauf, Escondido High School Wood Shop Instructor

Christopher Geldest, San Marcos High School Wood Shop Instructor

Carl Carpenter, Custom Woodworking and CNC operator and owner

Introductions were made including individual backgrounds.

Jack explained the new programs vs. the old certificates that are being phased out. There are 8 new disciplines. A copy of the new CFT Degrees and Certificates was provided. It was noted that there has been a criticism at our lack of graduates. The new certificates are under 30 credits and ideally to be attained in 2 years. The purpose is to train people for employment be it self-employment or other employment in the woodworking field. The goal is to teach basic woodworking skills then specialty skills.

It was recommended by Carl Carpenter that we have more than one business class and he stressed the importance of people who want to be in business needing to know how to properly bid a project.

Jack explained a problem with hiring new instructors. The school wants an instructor that can teach in all disciplines. A compromise has been made to separate our program into 3 disciplines – furniture, cabinetry and guitar (string instruments), and having new instructors be able to teach all the classes in the discipline they will teach in. There is a statewide directive for our certificates to be completed in 30 or less credits and in 2 years.

Jack asked ‘what do employers want and what skills can we give our students?’

Dave began a discussion regarding CNC. What do we need to do?

Carl Carpenter has considerable experience in this area. A discussion of various drawing programs and CNC machines followed. Carl stated that it is important to always run a ‘Simulation’ first where the cutter hovers above the work piece. He stated that an operator must constantly use the CNC to be proficient. After a break of any time in using the machine the operator needs a complete review to again be proficient.

Jack asked how to incorporate CNC into our existing classes.

Carl explained there are 3 categories regarding the CNC machine.

1. The operator who pushes the buttons
2. The software programmer who only does software
3. The owner who should know everything – operating and programming

It was brought up by Nathan that Palomar College offers classes in Master Cam and Solid Works and instruction for those programs could be sought in other departments on the campus.

Carl and Christopher also added that tutorials can be found on line such as u-tube and woodworkers forum.

Further discussion was about various CNC machines and software programs. Carl suggested that our program focus on operating the CNC machine. He asked if our goal was to teach people to use the CNC or to make use of the machine to make things.

Carl brought up the fact that if we are getting hot chips when the machine is running that we are running too slow a feed rate and that this is hard on the tools.

Nathan asked if we track our students after graduation so as to be able to produce statistics on the number of graduating students that are now either employed in the woodworking business or self-employed in woodworking. He also brought up the problem about our classes not transferring to other schools as that is a possible deterrent for students.

Dave said he is trying to create a database of graduates working in woodworking.

Nathan suggested that we have a group of new students follow the same schedule/path to their certificates. High School students stay together each semester as their progress thru high school. Keeping students together through several classes helps them build relationships and provides a support group that helps further their skills. Many young students do not have that sort of support from their families.

Nathan explained that Escondido High School has after school and weekend programs for students and those instructors can be paid for this. He suggested that we have some of our instructors come as guest speakers and demonstrate a woodworking skill at the high school.

The importance of an excellent web site was brought up as being vital to the success of our program. Prospective students can be brought in through this method and as most young prospective students are adept at finding woodworking programs via the internet, a top notch web site is important.