

**Palomar College Welding Department  
Industry Advisory Committee Meeting  
Minutes**

ITC-107 6:00 P.M.

**Members Present-**

Joe Maier- VP operations; Airgas West  
Preston Buchannon- Outside Sales San Diego; Airgas West  
Josh Sprinkle- District Account Manager; Miller Electric  
Bill Borinski- Welding; BAE Sysytems  
Jeff Davis- AWS President District 21  
Pete Vargas- Business Agent; United Association of Pipefitters Local 230  
Toru Garlin- Outside Sales; Westair  
Chris Armitage- Trident Marine  
Dennis Lutz- Palomar College  
R. Sawyer- El Cajon Valley High School  
R.Mascarenol- West Air

**Call to Order-** 6:10 P.M.

**Ashley Wolters-** Introduced himself, explained parking, and thanked everyone for attending.

Explained the program background and degrees/ certificates.

**Introductions of committee members-** 6:15P.M.

**Kevin Powers-** expanded on program information and goals of the program.

Discussed what the program should do to ensure our students are ready to benefit our stakeholders in regards to students entering the workplace and deficiencies applicants possess. Topics discussed interviews, placement tests, and welding certifications.

**Pete Vargas-** most applicants have the skills to secure an interview but do poorly during the interview process. Most applicants struggle with basic interview questions such as why do you want to be a pipefitter? What strengths do you possess that make you a strong candidate for this career? Etc....

**Kevin Powers-** 6:25 P.M. Discussed program and facility expansion as well as stackable certificates.

Discussed the only major welding process that the college does not currently offer is FCAW-S. We do not currently offer it due to lack of equipment and an exhaust system that could handle the particulate generated.

With the expansion of our laboratory we have negotiated moving our exhaust system to give us a useable yard space. We plan to build 5 FCAW stations outside. Is that something the program should pursue? Are you sales guys selling a lot of FCAW-S wires?

**Preston Buchannon-** EVERYDAY pallets of it move through Airgas.

**Josh Sprinkle-** The industry is using self-shielded wires more and more for construction projects. Ironworkers, Bridges, and any large steel projects are using it, and they need people.

**Kevin Powers-** What type of machines should we get to push the industry standard 305 and 232 wires?

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**Josh Sprinkle-** Our diversion 650 will be the minimum you will want in order to burn the bigger diameters used in structural applications.

**Jeff Davis-** NAASSCO is using primarily FCAW-S and they are advertising they need 900 people in their first wave of hiring right now.

**Bill Borinski-** BAE uses it all day every day. You do not need a dedicated course for it but integrate it into your wire courses yes.

**Kevin Powers-** So as a committee do we vote to add FCAW into our weld 120 curriculum and secure the machinery to offer it?

**Committee-** Unanimous yea

**Kevin Powers-** Discussed the equipment needs for the other courses in the program.

The ironworker is unsafe and at the end of its life cycle. With the addition of heavy structural welding processes we should upgrade to a bigger capacity ironworker. We are looking to replace the ironworker with a p-90 piranha that has bigger capacity for our expansion. The current ironworker is over 15 years old and is at the end of its life cycle. We had maintenance done on it and the professionals said it should be replaced.

The fabrication class is being rebooted and adding project based exercises. Where we fall short is with our sheet metal equipment. We have 3 brakes, 1 roller, and no bead rollers.

The students are required to get projects done, but have to spend most of their class time waiting to use machines. We have identified a need for 100 24" brakes, 10) 24" manual slip rolls, and 10) manual bead rollers. These machines are perfect size for the projects in the fabrication class and 10 is a good quantity to allow students to complete their projects on time.

**Committee-** Agreed

**Kevin Powers-** currently our shear is setup for thicker materials, but we have added thin gage materials to our GTAW courses and the shear requires 2+ hours of work to adjust the blade gap. So what ends up happening is the gap doesn't get adjusted and the student's plates are distorted prior to welding. As you all know, when welding plates are distorted, it is very difficult for beginners to try and accomplish welding with any kind of quality. We have looked at purchasing a sheet metal shear that will allow us to use the big shear for heavy gage and a sheet metal shear for thin gage. This shear will serve the Weld 115 course as well as the fab class. The shear will also save the auto body course hundreds of dollars per semester in materials purchased.

**Ashley Wolters-** We have shopped around and found a Baleigh hydraulic 10 ga. shear that would fit our program needs perfectly. Baleigh SH-5210

The Committee Agreed.

**Ashley Wolters-** Opened a round table discussion about emerging welding trends such as robotic welding.

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**Jeff Davis-** Other welding programs such as Long Beach and Arizona Western are adding robotic programs.

**Josh Sprinkle-** discussed local customers that are needing robotic welding programmers and are seeing major savings by switching to automated processes.

**Kevin Powers-** A robotic weld cell would be a wonderful addition to our advanced manufacturing program and stackable certificates with other programs.

**General Committee Consensus-** It is on the horizon, but the immediate local need isn't high enough to look at integrating into the program at this time.

**Ashley Wolters-** Steered discussion to Jeff Davis and opened discussion about AWS chapter.

**Jeff Davis-** An AWS chapter gives students exposure through industry and a lot of networking opportunities.

**Ashley Wolters-** What are some key elements to running a successful student chapter?

**Jeff Davis-** The student chapter needs to be student driven. They need to elect an executive board, there's bylaws to follow, a student advisor, and a minimum of 3 meetings a year.

**Kevin Powers-** What kind of monies were awarded to the district for AWS students?

**Jeff Davis** – Explained the many student scholarships offered by the AWS and explained that a lot of the money goes elsewhere due to lack of applicants.

**Ashley Wolters-** If I wanted to see an example of a successful student chapter, who should I visit?

**Jeff Davis-** Arizona Western is a prime example that is very involved. One thing they do is get their local high schools involved as well.

**Kevin Powers-** Now would be a good time to adjourn and we can walk over to tour the facility and discuss the coming remodel/ expansion – 7:30 P.M.