

Welding Advisory Committee Meeting

May 7, 2025

Present: Agne Juskaite Aguirre, Alexis Cornell, Kelly Devich, Jim Greer, Mike Guzik, Bette Osborne, Dave Viar, LoShay Willis, Amanda Young, Ryan Zwick

Topic	Discussion
Commencement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Call to order at 5:00 p.m.● Introductions begin around the room and Dave thanks everyone for attending.
Review of Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Dave asks everyone to review the minutes from the 2024 meeting. Motion to approve: Jim Greer; Second the motion: Amanda Young.
Program Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● American Welding Society conferences help support our school; we recently attended and gave talks at one of their 3-day conferences in Minnesota. Dave adds that these conferences are also beneficial to adjuncts who would like to further their career. We would like to host an AWS conference soon.● The Certified Welding Educator program is being pushed by AWS, and they are reaching out to ICCB to see if welding programs should require the certificate. This is a certification for welding instructors.● The projected job outlook by AWS is that 320,500 welders will be needed by 2029, with an average of 80,000 job openings per year.● We have strong partnerships with unions and weld shops in the area, and we have been successful at getting students jobs at places such as Circle Metals and Pipefitters. We do not promote job placement, but we can write a letter of recommendation for some individuals.● We have an overload of dual enrollment students, and we are experiencing communication issues with admissions. Additionally, they would like to add one more class, but Dave declined. Dean Willis says she needs to have a conversation to sit down and work this all out so we can have everything written down for admissions to stick to our guidelines. We are limited by space at this time.● The Welding Competition this year was a success. We gave away \$2,000 with two \$500 scholarships and another \$1,000 scholarship. We had a turnout of 45 students attend with one high school dropping out at the last minute.● During talks at SIU, Dave heard there is a push for a state-wide curriculum for competency-based learning. Discussion ensues.

Lab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It takes a lot of time, effort and money to run the welding lab and Dave has some concerns about lab sustainability. We are so grateful for our donations; however, our equipment cost is out of control. We have students supplying their own materials. Dean Willis says she is in the middle of conversations right now, looking to increase budgets within our program to help with rising costs. ● Dave has concerns about an accident occurring or that the program starts to suffer due to the lack of space. We have been building and adding on to the same space since 1986, and we are outgrowing it. Dean Willis says that the administration is looking to put their focus on healthcare and manufacturing, and we hope to see some development on this topic soon.
Questions or Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jim Greer says we need work done on the exhaust in the original lab. The arms and everything are completely messed up from use. ● Agne Juskaite Aguirre mentioned that Moraine Valley signed an agreement with Valley City State University if any students are interested in becoming CTE teachers, she would be the point of contact for those students in advising.
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Motion to adjourn: Jim Greer ● Second: Alexis Cornell ● Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.