

Welding Advisory Committee Meeting

May 26, 2026

Present: Agne Juskaite Aguirre, Kelly Devich, Michael Hubers, Suzanne Kendryna, Ann-Margaret Luciano, Michael Mishka, Jack Molenhouse, Terrence J. Norris, Mike Pelegrino, Jake Rutan, Ryan Ruzzini, Alexis Stefanos, Alexandria Terrazas, Al Tomnitz, Dave Viar, LoShay Willis, Ryan Zwick

Topic	Discussion
Commencement	• Call to order at 5:30 p.m. • Introductions begin around the room and Dave Viar thanks everyone for attending.
Review of Meeting Minutes	• Dave Viar asks everyone to review the minutes from the 2025 meeting. Motion to approve: Jim Greer; Second the motion: Suzanne Kendryna.
Program Review	• American Welding Society Student involvement has been a challenge. District 13 for AWS has \$190,000 in scholarship money available, however, students are not applying to receive a \$1,000 scholarship. Student membership is free and all they have to do is sign up and apply for a scholarship. • In 2 weeks, there will be a district conference held at Starved Rock where \$95,000 will be awarded to District 13, but at this time Dave estimates about six students receiving scholarships. • These scholarship opportunities are also open to dual credit and dual enrollment students. Suzanne Kendryna would like a link to encourage dual enrollment students to sign up. • There remains a heavy push to become a certified welding educator in Illinois. There has not been a mandate yet, so these requirements will not be added to the MQT's. Dean Willis mentioned we could offer the courses at Moraine if there was ever a mandate to become CWE's in Illinois. • Job outlook: by 2029 there will be an estimated 320k welders, needing 80k welders annually. • Our enrollment has been full, and we have not cancelled any classes. Dual enrollment is going very well with having the potential to open another class offering in the fall of 2026. The possibility of adding a dual enrollment section on the weekends was discussed; we would need to find an available teacher. • Our welding competition was an outstanding event with 55 participants; we gave away \$2,000 and a bunch of equipment. Dave has some concerns that some of the high schools are losing administrators and teachers that

	help promote the competition. Suzanne Kendryna thinks the issue is that they are losing the space for developing these programs further. • Nicor recently donated pipe.
Lab	• We continue to do everything we can to maintain, reservice, and rehab all our equipment. • The possibility of introducing a small robotic sub was discussed. Mike Hubers of Lincoln Electric recommends starting with a program like Cobot; he says they are very flexible and come in a lot of different brands and suggests making a curriculum out of it. • Dean Willis says we would need to add outcomes to the curriculum, and she would like at least one course added to the curriculum. • Dave would like to get one by fall 2026 to get trained on it to see where the interest is before moving forward. Mike Hubers estimates the cost to be \$90k to \$100k. • Dave has interest in mobile welding and would like to develop an engine-driven outside pipe welding class. This would require extra space outside for the machines.
New Building	• The college board has approved placing a referendum on the November 3 election ballot. Voters will decide whether to authorize \$115 million in bonds to fund the construction of a new campus building, which will include a state-of-the-art facility for welding, HVAC and automotive. The new property will be located in an open space on the east side of campus. Dean Willis would like feedback on what kind of equipment and things we would need for this new facility to determine if we would need to apply for grants. The project would be expected to start by 2029.
Questions or Ideas	• No questions or ideas.
Adjournment	• Motion to adjourn: Allan Tomnitz • Second: Michael Pelegrino • Meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.