AUTO Advisory Committee Meeting

October 19, 2023 / 5:00 p.m.

Present: Stu Behrman, Jeanine Christensen, Zack Eret, Robert Faoro, Anthony Hernandez, Matt Krogh, Keith Luszcak, Robert McDonald, John Melisi, William McGrath, Bette Osborne, Steve Pappageorge, Pamela Payne, Rick Pennick, Michael Santoyo, Ray Schmude, Ira Siegel, Tamekia Smith, Randal Szewka, Allen Wolski

Topic	Discussion
Meeting Called to Order	6:00 p.m.
Welcome and Introductions	● Ira welcomes everyone to our Fall 2023 Advisory Meeting and thanks everyone for their participation. He thanks Bette Osborne, the department secretary, for her behind the scenes work and effort. Introductions begin around the room.
Review and Approval of Spring 2023 Minutes	● Ira asks everyone if they've had the chance to review the Spring 2023 Advisory minutes, and if there are any questions, corrections, or additions, etc. There were none. Ray Schmude motions to accept the meeting minutes; Stu Behrman seconds the motion.
Program Review / ASE Education Foundation	● Ira begins with an update on our ASE Education Foundation accreditation. In April we had members of our Advisory Committees help with our program's self-evaluation. That evaluation was submitted with our applications for both programs to the ASE Education Foundation in May. Both applications were accepted and approved. ● ASE then assigns a Team Leader, who is not affiliated with the college. Ira notes that it took a while to get that assigned Team Leader, but when they finally did, it was Ken Kunz. Kunz did our accreditation 10 years prior, and he is a professor of automotive technology at Waubonsee Community College. Ira explains we had to identify people who are not on our Advisory Committee to work with Kunz on the evaluation team. The evaluation team was then made up of some of our graduates, Mark Behan, John Wolicki, and two automotive professionals that Ira has known for many years, Scot Manna and Pat Weber.

Program Review / ASE Education Foundation continued	● The on-site evaluation will be on October 20th, and Ira says that we've done everything we can to be prepared for this evaluation. There were a few minor issues that they had to go over from the last evaluation, and we repainted yellow lines on the shop floor after their suggestion. ● Ira explains that the ASE Education Foundation accreditation is an ongoing beneficial process that not only occurs every 5 years, but also has a Midpoint Compliance Review at each 2.5-year mark. The midpoint consists of a self-evaluation completed by Advisory Committee members. This is all to make sure we are meeting requirements and look for ways to make our program better. Ira explains this is the reason why we have manufacturer partnerships. He then thanks everyone involved in this process because there is a lot of work that goes into it.
Program Review / Manufacturer Programs / Mopar CAP, Nissan, and Mercedes-Benz	● Our partnership with Stellantis has a separate Advisory Committee and Rob Faoro is the coordinator of the Mopar CAP Program. That program is for students who want to work with Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, and Ram dealerships, and Ira notes we have a great group of students right now. ● The Nissan Infiniti Technician Training Academy has 7 students in the program; 2 students are working, and 1 that works at Hawkinson Nissan is close to graduating. The other employed student is working at Infiniti of Clarendon Hills. Ira then elaborates about a student who was working but left his dealership due to low hours and pay. It's been in the works to get this student placed at another Nissan Infiniti dealership. ● We have 11 total cars with Nissan Infiniti, and 3 of those cars are battery electric Nissan Leafs. ● Ira moves the discussion to Mercedes Benz. We have a graduate working at Mercedes Benz of Orland Park, and we have 2 current students working there starting off with a pay rate of $26/hour. It was noted that their skilled technicians work for a flat rate of $42/hour. ● Discussion ensues about why our students may leave a job or dealership. Some reasons could be due to low pay or being stuck at the lube rack without a mentor. Ira elaborates. Stu Behrman adds that Belle Tire provides students with a contract that allows them to check in on their progress periodically with the end goal of them becoming full mechanics within 3 years. Allen Wolski agrees that he is in favor of stores that will have a career path for new hires, and he thinks those dealerships do a better job at retaining people.

Fall 2023 Semester Update	● All 28 scheduled class sections are running with morning and evening classes, as well as 2 Saturday morning classes. 5 of those 28 classes are introduction classes and that means a lot of new incoming students. We have 34 new students; that makes 6 less new students from the previous fall semester, but it is 8 more students than the spring semester. Bottom line is that Ira would like to see more students coming in even though this enrollment was enough to not have to cancel any classes. ● The total seat count is at 208; and that's more than we had in the spring and last fall. Ira explains that, although we have fewer new students, this higher seat count indicates we are retaining more students. Ray Schmude adds that he notices the students enjoy having more of a one-on-one experience. Ira explains that is because they have kept enrollment at 8 students per class instead of 12 students, and they hope to keep it that way.
Update Training Opportunities for AUT Faculty & H.S. Automotive Instructors	● All instructors in our program must participate in a minimum 20 hours of update training to for us to be an ASE certified program. Ira refers to the agenda with several training opportunities. He notes that some are available online through our partnerships with Stellantis, Nissan and Mercedes Benz.
Program Review / Dual Credit	● 6 out of 10 high schools in Moraine's district have auto programs that offer dual credit. Ira explains that students taking an advanced auto class can receive dual credit for our introduction course. The participating high schools are Argo, Reavis, Stagg, Andrew, Richards, and Shepard. Outside of our district we offer dual credit with Tinley Park High School. ● Additionally, Argo, Richards, and Shepard high schools offer dual credit with our brake systems class because they have all the same equipment. ● Ira notes the advantage of dual credit is that hopefully those students will enroll with Moraine Valley after graduating high school and transition into our auto program. Discussion ensues.

Program Review / Marketing, Recruiting **Program Review / Marketing, Recruiting continued**	● In April, the automotive program participated in the college's STEM Expo that brought in area high school students. For the auto portion, groups of students were split with Rob doing an activity in the lab on cars and Ira doing an activity on our electrical trainer boards. Ira estimates the expo brought about 400 students on campus. This was the first time we participated in the expo, and Ira looks forward to doing it again this spring. ● In July we had a recruiting table at the Palos Heights Car Show. One of our students, Roshawn Davis, was awarded a scholarship at this event. ● On September 27th Ira did an interview with Sue Jankowski from Palos Heights Television Channel 4. The video will soon be available to residents of Palos Heights and will also be posted for anyone on YouTube. ● We will be hosting service director training for Nissan dealers on October 26th. Mike Crehan was the organizer for the training. It's a good opportunity for people to come to campus and see our automotive department. ● Moraine Valley's Open House event will be on Saturday, November 4th. Two part-time instructors volunteered to help for the event, Steve Tyrolt and Joe Zegarlinski, and they will be working alongside Ira. They will have a table set up to recruit students for our program. ● There will be a Trades Expo on November 17th where area high schools bring students on campus to learn about all the different trades. Ira will be presenting information about our automotive program. ● On February 5th we will be hosting our High School Skills competition. Ira shares that, at last year's competition, when they were tallying up the scores, he noticed students talking with Nissan service managers about opportunities. He adds that the event worked out well and hopes to have good representation for the next event. ● We have a 20-minute video that highlights our program that was sent out to area high schools to be shared with students. ● We continue our relationship with Ferris State University and Southern Illinois University for our 2 + 2 Agreement. Ira mentions a 2012 graduate in attendance, Bob McDonald, who received his associate degree and transferred to SIU to receive his bachelor's degree. He also mentions that Rob Faoro's son, Nick, graduated from our auto program, went on to receive his bachelor's degree from SIU, and works at

	Ford Motor Company. Nick is looking to teach at Moraine for the spring semester. Ira mentions another graduate who followed a similar path that is interested in coming back to teach at Moraine. Bob McDonald says he thinks some high school students aren't aware of all the possibilities that are available outside of working in the shop. Discussion ensues.
Program Review / Labor Market-Opportunities for our Students and Graduates	● Ira says there continues to be more job opportunities out there than students to put in those jobs. Allen Wolski asks Ira to reach out to him when he can, and he mentions that Thomas Nissan in Joliet is looking for techs. Allen says the industry is desperate for anyone who wants to get their foot in the door.
Surveys	● Ira shares the survey results from graduates by going over the questions and displaying various results on screen. These surveys help us understand what students like or if there is a need for improvement. He mentions 2019-2020 graduates liked their instructors and small class sizes. ● "How could Moraine Valley do a better job in helping you accomplish your goals?" Some responses were: update the general auto program, get a lot more modern cars, expand and update the shop, etc. One student wished they knew about the Mopar CAP program earlier on. ● Ira says that the survey results were sent out to our instructional staff so that they can look for ways to make this experience better. Discussion ensues.
Equipment, Facilities, and Resources Review	● Ira speaks about the great relationship the AUTO department has with Research Development department. We are able to obtain grant funds from Perkins, which helps us to obtain equipment outside of the scope of our own budget. We have purchased a Challenger Lift Table, 3300#. We also removed our (2) oldest hoists and replaced with new ones able to hold 12,000# and 10,000#. We also purchased roll around tool cabinets, helping us to be much more organized. Thanks to Perkins, we have a new multi meters, (20) Fluke 88's, and an aftermarket scan tool. ● Ira states that we are looking to buy updated electrical trainers, a Gantry lift, a big crane device, and a new cabinet for our Engine Lab to replace the old one. Also, a new battery diagnostic analyzer. Ira elaborates. Discussion ensues.

Budget Review	● Ira reviews the budget for the committee. ● Randy mentions he's looking at getting a lot more maintenance on our equipment done over the next few months.
New Ideas/Suggestions	● Zack Eret mentions the hybrid and electric vehicles are needed in the program. Discussion ensues.
Closing	● Motion to adjourn: Stu Behrman ● Second: Randy Szewka ● Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bette Osborne
Secretary II
Moraine Valley Community College