

Imperial Valley College/San Diego State University/Workforce Development
Renewable Energy Advisory Committee
-Minutes-

Thursday, February 7, 2013
07:30-09:00
SDSU's Center for Energy Sustainability
Brawley, California

Members Present: Rosa Dominguez, Dave Edwards, Charlie Hosken, Ricardo Jimenez, Pricilla Lopez, Arkie Mayes, Michael Moore, Edwin Obergfell, Tracy Rascoe, Michael Sabath, Efrain Silva and Bruce Townsend

Members Absent: Sergio Cabanas, Jesse Montano and James Turner.

Guests: Fernanda Ferreiro, Frank Marquez and Phil Villanor.

Presiding: Glen Allegranza

Recorder: Rick Johnson

Commencement:

- Glen called the meeting to order at 7:35.
- Introductions
 - Mr. Frank Marquez reviewed the need for industry's participation and feedback for the Workforce Development's five year strategic plan. New regulations have changed some of the operational requirements. In return, Mr. Marquez distributed a survey for each member to complete.
- Minutes were unanimously approved for the December 6, 2012 advisory committee meeting.

Informational Items:

- Dr. Sabath, SDSU provided the committee updates for ongoing projects at the Center for Energy Resources, which included:
 - Discussed the Hyperlight and SAIC projects, with construction beginning sometime this month with an anticipated completion date of June 2013. Dr. Sabbath added that the SAIC project is a Department of Defense sponsored concentrated solar panel that will also produce hydrogen.
 - Assured the committee that SDSU and Sol Orchard have signed lease agreements, which includes a solar learning center.
 - Briefed the committee concerning ongoing meetings and discussions with Abengoa.
 - Notified the committee that he and Dr. Pearson, Dean of SDSU had recently met with Wilfred Marshall and were seeking a \$3 million EDA grant in order to construct another building with conference capabilities. In return, SDSU will be seeking community and industry support for this endeavor. Frank Marquez and Arkie Mayes concurred.

- Informed the committee that the Power Plant Simulator is progressing and should be installed by the end of June. A video highlight W. Virginia's 3D simulator was presented to the class.
- Distributed a survey in order to ascertain industry's needs for training; further explaining the opportunities of developing and providing e-learning modules to business, industry and to the community. In return, Dr. Sabath asked for additional comments concerning training programs that SDSU could provide. Mr. Marquez supported Dr. Sabath's request for comments, explaining the training opportunities that Workforce Development could provide, as well. Discussion ensued.
- Mr. Efrain Silva, IVC updated the committee on the following items:
 - Reviewed the approval process for curriculum
 - Discussed ongoing endeavors of developing an applied Associates Degree relevant to the industry.
- Mr. Rick Johnson provided the following information to the committee:
 - Will seek approval/denial at the April Meeting for an adjusted six course certificate program currently entitled, Alternative Energy Certificate.
 - Distributed summarized coursework for the certificate; copies of syllabi and outlines were made available for the committee's review.
 - Discussed briefly the Project Management Associates Degree which would be transferable towards SDSU's degree in Sustainability Studies or Public Administration. Committee approval will be sought at a later date.
 - Final reminder to the committee to complete and return the survey on e-learning topics to Rick Johnson at their earliest convenience. Dr. Sabath reiterated the importance of industry's input and comments on the surveys.
 - Glen Allegranza commented on the importance of providing essential training to applicants and current employees, in order to maintain local competitiveness for jobs within the industry.

Open Discussion:

- Mr. Edwin Obergfell discussed various IVROP Educational Foundation Scholarships with perhaps an industry-related opportunity. He also informed the committee of the Dancing with the Stars event, scheduled for April with possibilities of corporate sponsorships, purchase of tickets, etc. Mr. Efrain Silva concurred.
- Mr. Tracy Rascoe recapped his work experience within the wind energy industry:
 - He with Governor Richardson and Workforce Development in obtaining a grant, in New Mexico, in order to develop wind energy training and educational programs, along with skill sets. Lived and worked throughout Europe. Discussion ensued.
 - Some of his local recruitment difficulties include negative background checks, poor driving records and employee's unwillingness to relocate or to travel. Discussion ensued.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, April 11, 2013
07:30-09:00
Center for Energy Sustainability

Adjournment: 9:05