

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

Thursday, April 30, 2015
07:30-09:00
SDSU's Center for Energy Sustainability
Brawley, California

Members Present: Desiree Bryant, John Fahim, Miguel Figueroa, Arkie Mayes, Mike Moore, Edwin Obergfell, Efrain Silva and Bruce Townsend

Members Absent: Jeff Brothers, Sergio Cabanas, Rosa Dominguez, Dave Edwards, Charlie Hosken, Ricardo Jimenez, Mike Lopez, Jesse Montano, Tracy Rascoe, Michael Sabath and Jim Turner

Guests: Tina Aguirre, Camilo Garcia and Armando Ramirez

Presiding: Glen Allegranza

Recorder: Rick Johnson

Informational Items/Minutes:

- Mr. Allegranza called the meeting to order at 7:30.
- Introductions
 - Mr. Allegranza welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Mayes moved to approve the October 30, 2014 minutes as presented.

SECOND: Mr. Fahim

VOTE: Unanimous

Current/Proposed Projects - SDSU:

- Mr. Rick Johnson, SDSU provided the committee updates for ongoing projects at the Center for Energy Resources, which included:
 - Informed the committee that Sol Orchard's project had been completed and was commissioned for operation in June 2014.
 - Explained to the committee that the Power Plant Simulator has been installed and is operational. Please schedule classes!
 - Apprised the committee that the Hyperlight project has been completed. In return, they are applying for another grant that will use dairy manure to create additional power along with a byproduct of bio fuel. They will commence with construction this summer.
 - No current updates on the LEIDOS or Interra projects.
 - Simbol, Inc. has temporarily closed operations in Imperial Valley.
 - SDSU is seeking funding through WIA/WIB in order to provide the Renewable Energy Foundation course targeting veterans, with an anticipated commencement of fall 2015.
 - Informed the committee with continued discussions with Mexican-based universities planning to send their engineering students and professors to the CES for classes,

specifically the *Introduction to Renewably Energy – Boot Camp* (students) and *Power Plant Simulation* (professors) during the summer of 2015.

- SDSU-IV will be offering a Sustainability Studies major in the very near future, possibly fall 2016. Discussion ensued.
- Mr. Fahim added two points: First, the importance of implementing irrigation management and watershed issues to the Sustainability curriculum; and second, the Sustainability program should be equivalent to an engineering level of instruction. His recent master's degree program was offered through the Engineering Department.
- Mr. Allegranza expanded upon the expense of engineering programs but thought the power plant simulator was a sound tool for engineering students.
- Mr. Johnson announced the inclusion of Dr. Asfaw Beyene, PhD in Mechanical Engineering and SDSU Department Chair as the newly appointed Director. Discussion ensued.
- Mr. Mayes stated that SDSU and IVC should take this information out to the schools in order to generate interest at a young age. Discussion ensued.
- Mr. Johnson summarized IID's previous engineering internship and thought they (IID) were resurrecting this very successful opportunity.
- Mr. Townsend discussed a local bus tour that he recently conducted with the public at large, dignitaries and other officials. It was very successful.

Current/Proposed Projects - IVC:

- Mr. Efrain Silva updated the committee on the following items:
 - Notified the committee that the NSF grant is winding down with most of the programs near completion, June 2015.
 - Discussed current sanctions by WASC and how it impacts the implementation of new coursework.
 - Mr. Fahim added that all of the curriculum has already been built into CurricuNet and will be in the hands of the Chancellor very soon. Also noted that the Science Department has been very cooperative in sharing their alternative fuel curriculum for the alternative fuel certificate. Expanded upon the importance of sustainability-related curriculum.
 - Mr. Allegranza asked, "Will all of the programs be institutionalized?"
 - Mr. Silva responded, "Programs must prove that jobs are available,"
 - Mr. Fahim gave a historical overview of the "old" solar certificate program and how the new program is more streamlined and practical. He added, he hopes to put a lot of effort into recruiting students.
 - Mr. Allegranza stressed the importance of using industrial standards.
 - Mr. Silva discussed the status of developing the first four courses of the apprenticeship classes (ELTT101-104) into an online format specifically designed for industry.
 - Instructors have been trained in Blackboard
 - Spearheaded by Larry McLaughlin (who recently transferred)
 - Mr. Fahim inquired about additional alternative energy staffing at IVC.
 - Mr. Silva responded that CTE courses generally are not a high priority but he always asks for three positions. He is looking at merging some positions.

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- Mr. Fahim asked if a letter of support from this advisory committee requesting that a fulltime position be opened within alternative energy would help? Discussion ensued.
- Mr. Silva agreed that it would and stated that he would develop a template and send it out to each member.
- Ms. Aguirre added that IVC now has an engineering component that allows students to attend/transfer to CETYS. Having a steady source, from industry, assists with the development of programs.
- Energetic discussion ensued concerning engineering programs and internships.

Action Items:

- Mr. Allegranza asked for a motion – Letter of Support to Imperial Valley College requesting a fulltime alternative energy teaching position.

MOTION: Mr. Arkie Mayes
SECOND: Ms. Desiree Bryant
VOTE: Unanimous

New Business:

- Mr. Allegranza apologized and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
- With the NSF grant funding ending in mid-June and SDSU's DOL funding ending sometime in September 2015, Mr. Allegranza asked, "What's next?"
- Mr. Johnson explained the accomplishment of the grants and the importance that the committee contributed to those accomplishments.
- Mr. Silva reinforced the importance for industry to consistently recertify curriculum.
- Mr. Allegranza praised the productiveness of the committee.
- Mr. Figueroa expressed the ability of the One Stop Shops to assist industry, education and workforce development entities.
- Mr. Townsend stated that IID's management is very supportive of the accomplishments from this committee.

MOTION: Mr. Townsend motioned that the committee continue to meet at least twice a year.
SECOND: Mr. Fahim
VOTE: Unanimous

- Mr. Townsend updated the committee on IID's storage facility which will be located near the El Centro Steam Plant (Dogwood and Villa).

Next Meeting: **TBD**
07:30-09:00
Center for Energy Sustainability

Adjournment: 8:50