

Water Resources Technology Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2016
12:00 – 1:30 pm SRJC-Petaluma Campus PC 602
LUNCH PROVIDED AT MEETING

Voting Members Present: Chris Finton, Leah Walker, Hal Race,

Non-Voting Members Present: James Kenney, Pat Gothard, Vince Bertsch, Victor Tam, Leena Her, Chris Murray, Ryan Kirchner, Randy Piazza, Catherine Williams, and Janet Stribling.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call – 12:15 by Catherine Williams. Quorum was not declared. Committee members and guests introduced themselves.
2. Open Period for Public Participation
3. Consent Calendar
Matters listed under this item are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion. The consent calendar may include resolutions; therefore, the motion, second, and vote will also be applicable to the resolution and recorded accordingly. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless requested by a voting Advisory Committee Member or SRJC faculty member prior to the time the Advisory Committee Members vote on the motion to adopt.
 - a) Minutes: No Quorum, tabled until next meeting. **Quorum is 50%+1**
 - b) Update Advisory Committee Member and Supporting Member Lists. Changes made. Need to reach out to others to be on committee. Thought was that Drinking water program would have a representative here? If you have folks you would like to invite please let me know. Sonoma County Water Agency is interested in having someone serve on this committee, the City of Santa Rosa also. Is it possible to have a proxy? Suggested to put a name and an alternate from each agency.
4. Advisory Committee Member Reports
Veronica Astells was not present to report on Student and Young Professionals Committee and current events.
5. Dean of Instruction Reports – Catherine Williams –update on:
 - The current bond/Facilities Master Plan process, including our study of the best location for the Water/Wastewater programs.
 - Catherine brought forward data that looked at enrollment by zip codes, where students are living, it was pretty well split between South County area and central Santa Rosa and students come from out of county to take classes. If we were to move the classes to SR campus you would see a slight increase in central SR enrollments, because more density of population in central SR. the fact that it is split we are pulling more enrollments in Petaluma. We have asked Faculty their perspective on this and the result was all the programs taught here we have an additional effort to connect with SR colleagues, this program is taught completely by adjuncts who are fully employed elsewhere and most live in South County, and commute to Petaluma. If the program moved farther North to SR they would not

continue teaching as it is too much travel. Vince shared that enrollment would improve if we moved to SR campus. Feels benefits would be better with full time faculty support to adjunct faculty, more opportunities to interact. They are adding a SLIA (Science Lab Instructional aide), central storage upkeep, and things are on horizon such as building changes, just moved in interior design and not sure where this program would fit in as far as room for it on the campus. As an adjunct we only come at night and keep up via email with Faculty in SR. Students will come to either campus to get there CTE or other classes. Students like Petaluma campus and it is easy to get on and off the campus, they feel comfortable here. Jim said it is really logistics for him teaching in Petaluma and he would not be able to continue teaching if moved to SR. Asking industry members their thoughts on moving program, (1) either campus is fine as long as you offer the program. (2) People will go where program is being offered, as this is the only program in the area. (3) It has become a central location, easier to park and a good following here at Petaluma, and 2/3 of students like it in Petaluma. (4) Without solid evidence of enrollment increasing you wouldn't want to move, especially with restraints with buildings and parking coming up. (5) Another professor mentioned that he is coming from Benicia and couldn't continue teaching if it moved to SR campus.

- Workforce Program- There is currently money from State of California to build a strong workforce program, all of our certificate programs are submitting proposals this week. Would like to brainstorm if there are any requests for water/wastewater program to present. Specifically since we are an Adjunct run program I was thinking of asking for some staffing time to coordinate this program and outreach.

6. Department Chair for Applied Technology– Vince Bertsch

- Discussion on how current program offerings can better support the local water/wastewater utility company's needs for training of their staff. Mirror our program to Solano Community College's program?
- Water / Wastewater Curriculum Updates? Budget is driving a lot of this. What can we do to streamline and maximize our efficiency, make it look better, and look stronger in the eyes of administration? There are external drivers that the college is facing like budget shortfalls, and this program currently costs more to operate than the revenue generated from student enrollment. Budget concerns expose this program; low enrollment numbers, to increased scrutiny from financial decisions makers. What can we do to increase the number of students, boost the number of students enrolled in classes and complete certificates? Can we combine math and chemistry class because we can't really afford to offer two separate classes, can we merge them into one, therefore streamlining that program and boosting number of students in the class on curriculum side to boost enrollment. What can we do to make it easier for students to complete their certificates, especially if we have skills certificate type classes, can we do some of these types of changes to get more students to complete their CTE programs? What kind of trimming can we do? A flowchart was handed out ([included as an attachment](#)) detailing where we are currently and where we believe we can increase enrollment by modifying coursework pathways to completion, to suit a larger group of program attendees Vince to Submit the first round of paperwork which details out the structural changes within the certification program. They are 85% of the way on those, I have drafts ready to go, plan to submit them in the next 10 days, so it can be in place for next semester. This will show progress is being made. It was brought up that you have two cliental, current utility workers that are trying to maintain CEU requirements for certificate and licenses. There are many other programs out there that offer these courses to update their CEU's. I think you have been missing this cliental, local utilities.

Huge advantage to have courses offered to get these types in here. New person coming into industry is interested in the degree program for those who have the time to do this with an internship. You will see a lot of placement. For CEU some people are not going to come and take it here when they can take it quicker someplace else?

7. Advisory Committee Member Reports –

- Leah Godsey Walker – Update from the Wastewater Operator Certification Advisory Committee? No update
- Chris Finton – Social Advocacy for Youth Sonoma County. Tour of CMSA and Internship Policy Update. They came down and brought 16 students from Piner High School. Enjoyed having them, the kids really engaged and asked questions. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Social Advocacy for Youth. We need to try and get a person onboard from this agency since Pat has retired, and need to get another person to sign on in her place.

8. Verbal Reports by SRJC Faculty / Adjunct Staff Members

- Patricia Goddard/Leena Her – CTE meeting regarding SRJC Work Experience and Internship Department. CTE Work Experience Grant(s) Leena her meets with all the wastewater students who want to do internships and some are doing it for free, and volunteering at agencies to get their hours in. an idea is to propose a matching stipend where our institution would apply for a grant and then work with agencies to try and match the stipend for our students. In moving forward maybe we can brainstorm on other ideas. It was suggested we look at what the Union is going to say about this, being paid to work in a facility for internship. She would appreciate any of you sending opportunities to her.
- Chris Murray- Wastewater brochure is updated and on website under wastewater resource. Will continue to work on it and keep updated and an easy resource for wastewater program.
- Chris Finton suggested that priority for internships should go to those in the expanded certification/major programs first.

9. Topics for Further / Future Discussion –

- a) Recycled Water Reuse
- b) Moving towards Resource Recovery Facilities-Water and WW Treatment Facilities.

10. **NEXT MEETING:** Tentative Meeting Date: Thursday May 18, 2017

11. Adjournment – 1:40 by C. Finton