

MJC Automotive Technology Advisory Meeting – April 13, 2010

Minutes

Members in attendance:

Gerry Wray, Modesto Junior College
John Peterson, Modesto Junior College
George Woodward, Modesto Junior College
Leonard Corgiat, Modesto Engine Renu/MJC
Bill Thomas, Bureau of Automotive Repair/MJC
Dave Seibert, Oakdale High School
Gordon Lucas, Dan's Auto repair

Apologies:

John Haley, American Chevrolet

▪ **Introductions**

The meeting started at 7.00pm with all present introducing themselves.

▪ **Review and vote on the importance and continuance of local secondary ROP Automotive Programs**

Dave Seibert provided information on the problems facing high school auto programs. He stated that the high school system sees its' function as preparing students for a four year college even though only approximately 7% actually complete a four year degree. As school principles are graded on API scores this tends to be where resources are allocated. High school auto programs are operating reduced programs with less resources and expansion is impossible. All agreed on the importance of continuing high school auto programs as students were getting less and less exposure to mechanical skills. The vote to continue high school programs was passed unanimously.

▪ **Current program provision**

G Wray provided members with copies of the current automotive programs offered at MJC and copies of Summer and Fall 2010 schedules. There has been a reduction in the number of classes and sections offered due to budget constraints. Only two classes will be available in Summer 2010 whereas in previous years four classes were offered. Cuts in scheduling will continue until the college

reduces its deficit. Leonard Corgait asked why automotive students were required to take a machine shop class as part of their program when there was a dedicated automotive engine machining class. There was a general agreement that basic machine shop skills (measuring, thread cutting) were included in the intro automotive class. G Wray proposed researching auto programs in other colleges to see how their programs were organized as he is concerned with the number of units and classes students need to complete in order to gain an automotive certificate or degree. Bill Thomas said that Merced College was currently looking at changing their structure and renaming their certificates. G Wray asked for opinions on where the service writers/management classes should be included in the program. All agreed that our current provision could benefit from an overhaul and G Wray proposed that he would provide some suggestions of certificate options for the committee to consider.

- **Program Development and Maintenance**

George Woodward provided course outlines for Transportation Service Consultant and Transportation Service Management courses which were proposed at the last meeting. The automotive department secured funding to develop a service consultant course and this process is underway. The committee reviewed the outlines and discussed qualities of a good service writer. Gordon Lucas said that in his experience the best service writers had excellent communication and presentation skills with possibly a limited technical knowledge. It was agreed that the outlines were appropriate for the proposed courses. G Woodward also provided information on Alternative Fuels classes currently being offered at the college. These are introductory classes funded by workforce development but it was hoped that this area could be expanded in future. G Wray followed up on the internship opportunities suggested at the previous meeting with a spreadsheet of options for employers. Currently outside funding is not available but there is a process where students could gain employment experience as MJC student workers. It was suggested that interested parties review the options provided and contact him if they are interested.

Due to time the last two agenda items were not discussed and will be added to the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 9.00pm.