

Industrial Advisory Committee
School of Applied Engineering & Technology
Meeting Minutes: April 28, 2023
Becker Pavilion

Present:

IAC members:

- Jim Akers, Quality Manager, Woodward, Inc.
- Shawn Batka, Vice President, Supply Chain Operations, Blistex
- Bill Bledsoe, Vice President – Plant Manager, Aisin Electronics
- Glenn Edwards, Continuous Improvement Manager, Intertape Polymer Group (IPG)
- Kent Gouty, Quality Engineer, retired (GM – Bedford)
- Chuck Kuhn, Improvement Consultant
- Chris Numi, Continuous Improvement Specialist, Southern Illinois Healthcare
- Erik Perks, Plant Director (Prysmian Group)
- Gabe Smith, Plant Quality Engineering Manager, John Deere
- James Virgini, Director of Automation Engineering, Walmart
- Bart Welker, Senior Process Architect, Illuminative Strategies Inc.

Guest:

- Tim Lewis, Owner, Race Data Engineering

Faculty:

- Bruce DeRuntz
- Julie Dunston
- Tomas Velasco

1. Introduction of Members

The meeting commenced with an introduction of the industrial advisory committee members and faculty.

2. Approval of Spring 2022 Minutes

Minutes of the Industrial Advisory Committee meeting held on April 22, 2022, were reviewed. *Motion to approve the minutes was made by B. Welker, seconded by K. Gouty. Motion was approved unanimously.*

3. Nomination of New Members – James Virgini, Bill Bledsoe

B. Welker made a motion to nominate two new IAC members: James Virgini, Director of Automation Engineering (Walmart) and Bill Bledsoe, Vice President – Plant Manager (Aisin Electronics). Seconded by G. Smith. Motion was approved unanimously.

4. Announcements/Updates

ASQ Conference	<p>a. T. Velasco provided an update on the 17th ASQ Conference held at the SIU Student Center on April 27th. There were approximately 90 attendees and 15 speakers that presented throughout the day. A form will be sent out to all participants asking for their feedback on the conference. G. Smith recommended asking for student perspectives on session topics. S. Batka stated that this could be added to the survey. C. Kuhn suggested asking students for a list of topics and then presenting this to potential speakers. B. Welker suggested completing a plus/minus/delta on the conference. T. Velasco mentioned that a networking session was added this year and that it was a positive experience for students. S. Batka proposed a panel discussion and J. Virgini added that it would be helpful if it was guided; i.e., start with a predetermined Q&A session which would prompt further questions. Erik Perks suggested keeping the networking session at the end and adding a panel discussion at lunch. T. Velasco indicated that he would take all suggestions under consideration and discuss with the ASQ student chapter officers and members.</p>
EET TT Faculty	<p>b. J. Dunston announced that we have hired a new tenure-track faculty member for the EET program. Dr. Karumbaiah Chappanda Nanaiah started his position in the school on January 1, 2023.</p>
New IMAE Off-Campus Site	<p>c. J. Dunston informed the committee that the school is in the process of seeking IBHE approval to offer the IMAE program on campus at College of DuPage. We are working with CoD staff to recruit students and currently have 17 that are interested in enrolling in the fall semester.</p>
Enrollment	<p>d. Enrollment numbers for the IMAE program by site (on campus, off-campus, and online) were presented. We have seen challenges in gaining sufficient enrollment to offer the program at several off-campus locations and these are being evaluated to determine if a closure is appropriate. Campus numbers have been consistent over the past few years and growth continues in the online environment. <i>B. Welker</i> asked what draws students to campus. The faculty believes that the hands-on experiences provided by RSOs attract students to our college. <i>C. Kuhn</i> agreed that this is a good strategy for recruitment.</p> <p><i>J. Virgini</i> indicated that there should be a focus on a new pipeline of students. <i>E. Perks</i> stated that with the increase in chat GPT and other AI applications will result in a large number of displaced workers, and that we try to get ahead of the game to prepare for the gap that will results. <i>C. Kuhn</i> suggested targeting available labor by getting in front of HR groups. <i>J. Virgini</i> recommended connecting with career counselors who work with employees</p>

	<p>receiving severance packages due to layoffs. <i>B. Welker</i> shared information on the WARN Act (Department of Labor) which ensures advance notice in cases of qualified plant closing and mass layoff. Monitoring the website could be an approach to identifying opportunities for recruiting students that need retraining/upskilling.</p> <p><i>C. Kuhn</i> asked why there was a decline in enrollment at the off-campus sites. <i>J. Dunston</i> responded that there are two primary reasons: enrollment at our community college feeder programs has declined and more students are electing the flexibility of online offerings. <i>B. Welker</i> added that campus students are opting to take general education courses online to free up their schedules.</p> <p>A question was posed to the committee about the primary quality that employers look for in prospective employees. <i>K. Gouty</i> responded problem-solving and critical thinking. <i>T. Lewis</i> added that participation in RSO, such as Formula SAE, provide students with the opportunity to develop these skill sets.</p> <p>e. <i>J. Dunston</i> shared a list of actions/initiatives undertaken by the School of Applied Engineering in 2022. The focus was on student recruitment and ongoing interactions with community college partners. The school continues to engage in discussion with workforce development teams and industries representing the regions where are off site program is located.</p>

5. Discussion Items

<p>a. ATMAE Feedback Report</p>	<p>a. <i>J. Dunston</i> provided an update on actions completed to address ATMAE partial compliances from the last accreditation visit in Spring 2021. The progress report is due August 25, 2023. A summary follows:</p> <p>i. Standard 2 – Program Definition <u>ATMAE Team Comments:</u> The program under review has no option(s). However, the self-study indicated a Quality Management specialization (i.e., Industrial Management and Applied Engineering – Quality Management Specialization). The visiting team found that only two quality related courses are currently required. To have a program specializing in quality, more statistics/quality courses or re-naming of the program would be appropriate.</p> <p><u>Resolution:</u> With approval from the IAC at the spring 2022 meeting, the Quality</p>
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Management specialization has been removed and the change is formally reflected in the upcoming 2023-24 catalog year.

ii. Standard 6 – Program Structure & Course Sequencing

ATMAE Team Comments:

Sixty-four hours of Management and/or Technical course work exceed the maximum 60 hours ATMAE requirement. Also, the team found that SIU does not offer the required physics course online. This impedes student’s progress towards completion of the program.

The revised credit hour requirements, reflected in the 2023-24 catalog, were presented as follows:

Categories	Required Hours	IMAE
General Ed	18-36	33
Mathematics	6-18	6-7
Physical Science	6-18	8
Mgt &/or Tech	42-60	57
Electives	0-18	15-16

iii. Standard 16 – Employer Satisfaction with Job Performance

ATMAE Team Comments:

The visiting team observed from the self-study and onsite conversations with faculty and staff that attempts were made by the program to collect data. Surveys were distributed to employers of graduates asking questions related to job performance. However, only two (n = 2) responses were received. The visiting team observed that more targeted follow-up efforts could have been made (i.e., LinkedIn, phone, repeat surveys, etc.) to increase response rates.

The survey was revised based on feedback from IAC members in the spring 2022 meeting. The survey was distributed at the ASQ conference and we will continue to solicit responses via email communication with alumni.

iv. Standard 19 – Program Responsibility to Provide Information to the Public

ATMAE Team Comments:

The visiting team was not able to easily access all of the required information for this standard. While the program has made attempts to provide the information required by this standard, the information is not sufficient to adequately meet the CHEA requirements.

The IMAE program has a dedicated webpage that was recently developed and J. Dunston will work with University Communication to provide program information. As recommended by *C. Kuhn* and *E. Perks*, the following data

	will be shared: percentage of students participating in internships, placement rate, average starting salary, and advancements of graduates.
Curriculum Review	<p>b. i. <i>J. Dunston</i> shared feedback from students on content that they would like to see added to the program. This includes applications/programming knowledge in Excel, Python, CAD, and MATLAB.</p> <p>Topics that the committee suggested be addressed within the curriculum included time management (<i>K. Gouty</i>), statistics/analytics (<i>J. Virgini</i>), communication of results (<i>G. Smith</i>), CAD (<i>E. Perks</i>), and strategic analytics. <i>K. Gouty</i> suggested a strategic analytics minor which was presented at the spring 2022 meeting. After reviewing the courses in the minor, it was determined that BSAN 404 (AI in Business) and BSAN 406 (Information Visualization) would be beneficial to students. A course in logic was also recommended (<i>J. Virgini</i>), such as PHIL 105 Elementary Logic. <i>C. Kuhn</i> suggested tailoring content to the different needs of on campus students and online/off campus students. <i>B. DeRuntz</i> agreed and recommended that we consider creating specialized content. <i>J. Virgini</i> commented that benchmarking other programs would be beneficial.</p> <p>ii. <i>S. Batka</i> shared the Supply Chain Salary and Career Report results as well as the top 10 supply chain trends in 2023. These include big data and analytics, AI and machine learning, robotics, to name a few.</p>
Exit Survey Results	c. Results of the exit survey (graduating students) were shared with committee members. Overall, students were satisfied with the program but specific recommendations will be reviewed for discussion and future modifications.
Unit Effectiveness Plan	d. <i>J. Dunston</i> shared a draft of the Unit Effectiveness Plan for the School. This plan aligns with the College UEP that was finalized last year. Further metrics will be developed and tracked in the upcoming academic year and shared with committee members during the spring 2024 meeting.
Recruitment Strategies/ Input	e. There was insufficient time to discuss possible recruitment strategies and ideas for developing industry/corporate partnerships. This item will be included on the agenda for the next meeting.