

**Industrial Advisory Committee
Technology Department
Meeting Minutes: April 30, 2021
Meeting via Zoom**

Present:

IAC members:

- Jim Akers, Quality Manager (Woodward, Inc.)
- Nick Baudino, Quality Manager (Caterpillar, Inc.)
- Kent Gouty, Quality Engineer (GM – Bedford)
- Chris Krafft, Plant Manager (Wm. W. Meyer & Sons, Inc.)
- Chuck Kuhn, Vice President of Quality and Production Control (Aisin Electronics Illinois)
- Jake Lingle, System Director, Continuous Improvement (Southern Illinois Healthcare)
- Ron Milligan, Chief Systems Engineering (Boeing), retired
- Erik Perks, Engineering Manager (General Cable)
- Michael Uphoff, Maintenance Manager (Elgin Sweeper)
- Bart Welker, Manager of Operational Excellence (Department of Central Management, State of Illinois)

Faculty:

- Bruce DeRuntz
- John Cooper
- Julie Dunston
- Ron Parks
- Tomas Velasco

1. Introduction of Members

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

2. Approval of Spring 2019 Minutes

Minutes of the Industrial Advisory Committee virtual meeting held on April 24, 2020, were reviewed. *Motion to approve the minutes was made by T. Velasco, seconded by K. Gouty. Motion was approved unanimously.*

3. Nomination of New Member – Chris Krafft

Chris Krafft (Plant Manager, Wm. W. Meyer & Sons, Inc.) was nominated to join the industrial advisory committee by J. Dunston. *T. Velasco motioned to approve the nominations, seconded by C. Kuhn. The motion was approved unanimously.*

3. Updates

Campus Reorganization	<p>a. An update on the status of campus reorganization was presented (meeting handout was provided) including the restructuring of the College of Engineering to include the following schools: School of Applied Engineering and Technology; School of Electrical, Computer, & Biomedical Engineering; School of Computing; School of Civil, Environmental, & Infrastructure Engineering; School of Mechanical, Aerospace, and Materials Engineering; School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences.</p>
College	<p>b. Effective July 1, 2021, the engineering college will be officially renamed the College of Engineering, Computing, Technology, and Mathematics.</p>
Enrollment	<p>c. J. Dunston presented enrollment numbers/trends for the IMAE program by site (on campus, off campus, and online). Campus enrollment continues to decline but consistent growth has occurred in the online program. The school also tracks credit hours generated in the online program since an increasing number of students from other majors are enrolling in online IMAE courses. Some IMAE course are either approved electives or required courses for students majoring in Mechanical Engineering, Business Administration (supply chain management specialization), Automotive Technology, and Aviation Maintenance Management.</p> <p>A primary focus of the university is increasing enrollment for the fall 2021 semesters. Admissions funnel data is reviewed each week and there has been an increase in applications and admitted students campus-wide. Emphasis is now being placed on yielding students (registration) that have been admitted. Admissions funnel data was presented for IMAE and for the school. Both applications and admissions are up compared to the same time last year.</p>
ATMAE Accreditation	<p>J. On April 7-9, the Industrial Management and Applied Engineering program underwent an ATMAE reaccreditation virtual visit. The ATMAE visiting team met with representatives from the Industrial Advisory Committee on April 8. The Team Chair's feedback on this meeting was very complimentary and he was impressed with the involvement and dedication of IAC members. Overall, the visit went well and the program received reaccreditation for 6 years with a progress report in 2 years to address partial compliances.</p>

4. Discussion Items

<p>ATMAE Visiting Team Feedback Report</p>	<p>The IMAE program received full compliance on 15 of the 19 ATMAE standards. Partial compliances were indicated on four of the standards.</p> <p>Standard 2: The first partial compliance was on Standard 2 – Program Definition. The ATMAE review team indicated that there was an insufficient number of courses in quality to name a Quality Management specialization. The feedback report cited that only two quality related course are required in the curriculum.</p> <p>J. Akers commented that a significant amount of content that is included in the ASQ CQE Body of Knowledge is covered in the IMAE curriculum. C. Kuhn added that other courses in the program include skills that are related to quality management.</p> <p>T. Velasco stated that many graduates are hired in areas of quality but was not opposed to removing the specialization. B. Welker agreed and stated that a broader name may attract more students. R. Milligan mentioned that there are other areas that have been incorporated such as project management, leadership, and supply chain. K. Gouty agreed, stating that much of the training that is being done now is on leadership and project management. C. Krafft indicated that he would be in favor of removing the specialization and that graduates would be hired regardless of this.</p> <p>R. Milligan asked if the quality management specialization remained, would we have to expand on the quality aspect. Based on the views of the visiting team report, this would be the most likely approach to remove the partial compliance. Another option would be to break out all quality-related content by course although it would not be a guarantee that the visiting team would consider this a fulfillment of the requirement of the standard. C. Kuhn asked if removing the specialization would be a detriment to graduates of the program; e.g. if a company was looking for someone who was particularly versed in quality. J. Lingle mentioned that this would be a plus for him since the focus would be on quality and continuous improvement; however, the specialization name isn't necessarily needed since the curriculum provides details on the content covered in the program. N. Baudino commented that quality is not just the job of a single department but it is everyone's responsibility. Sometime the word quality can be viewed from a narrow-minded understanding of the term and many do not view it as a holistic approach to business management. The final decision was to revisit the topic at the next IAC meeting.</p> <p>Standard 6: The next partial compliance was related to Standard 6 and the number of credit hours under the management/technical electives category. The range given by ATMAE is 42-60, with the IMAE program listing 64 hours. A solution will be to investigate moving some of the technical elective hours to general elective hours. J. Dunston will facilitate discussions with the Physics department and the Associate Provost for Academic Programs to encourage the development of online physics lab courses.</p>
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Standard 16: This standard refers to employer satisfaction with job performance of graduates. The partial compliance was related to the low response rate on the employer survey that was sent out. Several members expressed concern over disseminating a survey that may be viewed by HR as a performance evaluation. B. Welker suggested sending a survey to supervisor to identify skills that graduates of the program possesses and what additional skills might be needed. R. Milligan felt that the ATMAE standard has not kept current with the times and that HR policy would restrict the completion of the survey. J. Cooper and B. Welker agreed. J. Cooper added that the survey should evaluate the program and not a particular person, stating that there is the potential for litigation if individual performance is requested.

J. Lingle added that any survey to employers would have to be reviewed by HR but that he would be willing to look at the survey and give his feedback on the content. J. Akers commented that his plant does not do hiring so sending a survey to a particular site may not get you to the correct person. C. Kuhn added that HR blocks communication about a person's performance, positive or negative, to maintain confidentiality. He suggested that graduates report their first promotion to demonstrate proficiency in job. M. Uphoff stated that Jim Hefti (HR Manager, ATS) could be consulted regarding the survey. C. Krafft recommended using Handshake to obtain employer information and feedback. B. Welker expressed concern over using a small sample set to determine program success since there are many factors that come into play when evaluating employee performance and when promoting. To address this partial compliance, the following action items were identified: benchmark what other programs are doing, revise the survey to focus on the program and not the employee, and use Handshake to connect with employers.

Standard 19: The program received a partial compliance related to the "program responsibility to provide information to the public". Although specific information cited in the standard is provided on the IMAE website, the review team felt it was insufficient. J. Dunston will communicate with the Team Chair to receive clarification on the deficiencies in this standard and also refer to other programs that have recently received accreditation.

Due to time constraints, the remaining agenda items are tabled to the next IAC meeting.