

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY (ATEC) ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, March 8, 2016
1301 Georgia Street, Vallejo, CA 94591
MINUTES

Present: Rick Marshall, SCC Faculty
Dan Spengler, Snap-On
Scott Xuereb, Snap-On
Scott Harwick, Sonoma Raceway
Avery Greene, Avery Greene Honda
Eldone Quirocho, BMW, San Francisco
Charlie Monteleone, Momentum, VP of Fixed Operations, Fairfield
Traci Taylor, Vaca Valley Auto Parts
Andy Watson, WATTCO
Paul Hidy, SCC Faculty
Debra Berrett, SCC Faculty
Maire Morinec, SCC Dean, Applied Technology and Business
Shirley Lewis, SCC Dean, Vallejo Center
Dan Moore, Kastner Honda
Jim Fox, Kastner Honda
Andrew McGee, SCC Auto Technology

The meeting was called to order by Paul Hidy at 1230 pm.

Facility Tour and Lunch: The advisory committee members were taken on a tour of the Auto Technology facility to view the equipment, vehicles, vehicle components, and tools and obtain their comments on their adequacy and suitability in teaching our Auto Technology students. The tour was followed by lunch.

Charlie Monteleone commented that the program was “staffed better than average dealerships.” Other comments:

“Your tools, equipment, and vehicles are extremely impressive.”

“Your program is well up-to-speed, equipment-wise.”

“You have a clean shop.” (Avery Greene)

“Your shop is clean and open.” (Scott Hartwick, Snap-On)

Vehicle Inventory: Paul Hidy remarked that we have a good fleet of vehicles at present; but we must keep working on it. The turnover ratio is 3-4 years, and so the program needs a constant stream of replacement vehicles. There are no budgets for parts and components. He seeks grants and is able to get Perkins funding. Measure Q also partially funded new equipment, but the program needs more vehicles and parts.

NATEF Certification: Paul Hidy reported that the ATEC program is applying for NATEF certification. GM and Honda have both indicated interest in becoming program sponsors; however, NATEF certification and curriculum development must be complete before they will sign an agreement with the program.

Andy Watson stated that he sits on some committees and may be able to help with vehicles and parts if he can obtain SCC's Tax Exempt number.

Traci Taylor also commented that Motorcraft may be willing to help.

Safety Compliance: Prop. 65 materials need to be posted on entry door and triangle signage needs to be posted. Paul Hidy explained that we are in a different category from other repair shops since we are a college program. Premier Chemical performed a walk through about a year ago.

Enrollment: Spring 2016 enrollment is currently at about 120, which includes enrollment at Fairfield High School. There are currently 6 ATEC classes, with a Fairfield HS Intro class of 13 students. In Fall 2015, enrollment was at 200.

New ATEC Center: The members viewed a video of the planned Center on Ascot and Turner in Vallejo. The center, once completed by Fall 2017, will be a 30,000 sf state of the art facility, with 18 service bays. Classes can be run concurrently for up to 500 students. The future ATEC Center will accommodate six (6) full time faculty, a smog station, and will provide a Service Advisor opportunity.

European Vehicles: Paul Hidy explained that the program has not gone with European cards due to the high cost of parts and the cost of tooling.

Avery Greene stated that he knows Co-Part owner, Jay Adair, in Texas and that he will research who is around. Wrecked cars go through Co-Part and are sold through insurance companies. Co-Part formerly had their corporate headquarters in Fairfield and their corporate hangar at the Nut Tree airport in Vacaville, but has now moved to Texas.

Curriculum Content: Paul Hidy handed out the ATEC brochure. He discussed the program's focus on hands learning, with 75% instructional time spent in the Lab and 25% spent in classroom lectures. He uses Pearson learning lab materials. The college is waiting on approval from the Chancellor's Office for new ATEC curriculum.

Industry Needs: Members commented that their repair staff need classes in steering suspension, brakes, and nuts. It was recommended that we do direct marketing of evening classes, preferably 2 hours in length and 2 nights a week.

Completion Rates: Paul Hidy reported that he did a study in October 2015. Many students leave for jobs after one semester in the program. We do offer evening classes.

Budgetary Issues: The ATEC program budget is \$13,800 and covers consumables only. He could use 50% more based on per student costs.

The BMW rep noted that the program should avoid working Safety-Kleen and go with Asbury Environmental. Safety-Kleen "is a rip off" -- charges 30% more and only takes coolant waste. Asbury is month-to-month.

Scrap Wish List: Avery Greene requested that Paul Hidy put together wish list to give to Co-Part, including components that the program needs, e.g. electrical, rack and pinion, transmissions, and engines.

Employment Trends: The committee discussed the dealerships' labor demands. A comment was made that the EDD numbers are skewed. There is an alarming turnover in personnel. Examples—there is a 38% turnover rate at Momentum and a 57% turnover rate at the supervisor level.

Jim Fox commented that we need to grow our own technicians and keep students in school until they complete their program.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Tuesday, September 13, 2016, from 12:30-2:30 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Recorder: S. Lewis