Kalamazoo Valley Community College
Drafting Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes – February 5, 2010

Present: Perry Betterly, Stryker; Dan Branch, Cimatron; Dave Brock, KVCC; Debbie Dawson, KVCC; Rick Garthe, KVCC; David Jarl, Eckert Wordell; Mitchell Keil, WMU; Art Parker, KVCC; Jennifer Pigeon, Skanska USA; Troy Smith, Fabri-Kal; Phil Spanjer, Humphrey Products; Mike Tyson, KVCC.

1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Tyson at 7:30.

2. Meeting Minutes of February 13, 2009: will be sent to members next week for approval.

3. Enrollment Numbers for Fall and Winter 2010 semesters: Tyson and Dawson reported increased enrollment for both the College and the Drafting Program. Increase credited to local economy and positive changes made in the program. Department will continue to examine what’s working and what still needs to be done.

4. Update on New Courses:
   - DRFT 110/112 Analytical Applications I & II; DRFT 225 Computer Aided Simulation; MSM 250 Wind Energy Mechanisms: Brock reported 110/112 were at full enrollment and students seem to be retaining information better. Positive feedback from both students and faculty. Brock also reported 225 providing students with working knowledge not just theory; students reporting that they enjoy the class. MSM 250 provides virtual lab with movie clips, interactive modules, and quizzes.
   - MACH 282 Wind Turbine Design and Manufacturing: Garthe reported that course takes students from design through manufacturing of turbines in 15 weeks. Team taught with faculty from DRFT, ELT, WELD and MACH. Faculty took turns being “plant managers” keeping students on task throughout the process with students taking ownership of the project. Students proud of their accomplishments. DRFT 284 Introduction to Revit. Very lucky to have highly respected local architect, Arnie Bunkley as instructor. Kal Blue will offer industry focused training while KVCC will provide traditional academic credits. Group project to build steam engine. DRFT 185: Inventor CAD students made up a steam engine for Shay Locomotive. Electronic files passed on to Howard Carpenter, whose Machine Tool students are making the steam engine parts.
   - DRFT 175 Fundamentals of Design and DRFT 180 Design for Manufacturability: Tyson reported that due to scheduling students had to take 180 before 175 which made the first offering a bit more difficult but now students should be on schedule for proper sequence. Course begins by talking about metals and heat treating; how they apply to design and the properties they need. Students learn that major failures in design and manufacturing are usually due to inappropriate materials. The course consists of a series of small projects, most with non-moving pieces, which helps students “put it all together” using all the “tools” from prior classes. Only in week four but so far so good. DRFT 180 – six projects - intent is to give students open-ended project, i.e., “something that does something”, providing them with real-life experience of starting from nothing.
   - Tyson reported that all of the changes and additional courses have filled some holes that were in the program. Hopefully graduates in CAD design will have a solid foundation in materials, processes, and design and how to apply in the workplace.
5. Comments:
   - Discussion regarding course deliverables and application to real world setting. Committee commended faculty on fantastic job of combining competitions, projects, and cross-discipline instruction to echo real world experience.
   - Question asked if the influx of students are enrolling in programs, certificates, and degrees or just taking classes wherever. Belief is that, due to the local economy, some students aren’t coming in with a long term goal in mind - just taking a couple classes to get certified or enhance resume. Department reporting many students who would have enrolled in program are now going straight to 4-year college due to Kalamazoo Promise. Local high school teachers indicating that their “good” students are getting “snapped up” by 4-year universities. Given the opportunity of free education many are choosing the 4-year degree over two-year. Dawson will check the number of students that have declared programs and will send information to committee members.
   - Wind Energy - great to see all the disciplines working together. Feels like all the hard work is coming to fruition. Wind certificate enrollment: July 70 declared majors; December 100, second largest enrollment in technology. Drafting and Design has largest number of students.
   - With all the changes recently made, were there any regrets, anything that shouldn’t have been removed from the program/courses? Cimatron being removed definitely hurts students. Machine class; didn’t need four-hour class but have found that some time is needed for students to get their hands on equipment; to actually see things. Fine line to balance needs of students and restraint of credit hours. Will continue to change and adjust program as needed.

6. Business Environment
   - Members reported 2009 a horrible year. Almost everyone had significant layoffs. Many not using their degrees. High competition between companies for contracts. Taking projects at reduced fees. The few people not laid off are extremely busy doing the work of many. 2010 feels better so far. Local industry is starting to turn around or holding steady but still not hiring. Scared that recent turn-around will not last. Companies not wanting to hire just to layoff later.
   - Problems with new hires looking good on paper or doing well in interviews but not being able to do the work. Qualified applicants not getting jobs because interpersonal skills lacking. Recommended to continue to utilize Lois Brinson-Ropes to help students with resume writing and interviewing skills and to continue to advertise, in class, the workshops and assistance available through Student Success Center.
   - Keil reported that WMU enrollment is also way up. Recommendation to offer Descriptive Geometry at KVCC. Check last Fall schedule to avoid scheduling conflicts for students with other required courses such as Physics.

7. Changes to Classrooms/Lab locations: Tyson reported to committee that program lost a classroom due to addition of new department. Committee members stated that losing classroom space is “counterproductive” and in “direct conflict” with the program’s recent success. Committee collectively suggests the college re-evaluate the loss of a classroom when program numbers are up 40-50%.

8. New Business: none reported

9. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.