

**CENTER FOR TECHNOLOGY, ESSEX
ENGINEERING / ARCHITECTURE
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

MINUTES – JUNE 16TH, 2020

DUE TO THE PANDEMIC, THE MEETING WAS HELD ON ZOOM. THE ADVISORY GROUP WAS SPLIT FOR THIS MEETING INTO ONLY THE ARCHITECTURAL ADVISORS.

PRESENT AT MEETING:

*JIM DIRMAIER – INSTRUCTOR
BOBBY HARRIMAN – G4 DESIGN STUDIOS
JOHN LAMOTHE – WEIMANN LAMPHERE ARCHITECTS
JAMIE PATTERSON – CO-OP COORDINATOR
KEVIN RACEK – CENTERLINE ARCHITECTS
JESSE ROBBINS – FREEMAN, FRENCH, FREEMAN*

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:23 AM (TECHNICAL ISSUES DELAYED THE 7:00 AM START).

THERE WERE NO VISITORS PRESENT

JIM SCREEN SHARED THE AGENDA:

- JIM WELCOMED THE GROUP AND WENT OVER THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING WHICH HE HAD ALSO SHARED WITH THEM BY EMAIL. JIM NOTED THAT THERE WERE NO VISITORS PRESENT TO BE HEARD.

AGENDA FOR THE MEETING:

- 7:00 A.M. CALL TO ORDER
 - VISITORS AND STAFF TO BE HEARD
 - REVIEW OF THE YEAR
 - ADVISORY BOARD POLL/QUESTIONNAIRE
 - DISCUSSION OF STUDENT COOP OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEXT FALL
 - FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
 - 8:00 AM ADJOURN
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- JIM STARTED WITH A DISCUSSION OF HOW THE PANDEMIC AND QUARANTINE OF THE PAST THREE MONTHS HAS AFFECTED THE OPERATION OF THE PROGRAM AND THE EDUCATION OF THE STUDENTS:
 - JIM DESCRIBED HOW HE USED BOTH ASYNCHRONOUS AND SYNCHRONOUS TECHNOLOGY TO CONTINUE TO CONNECT WITH STUDENTS AND DIRECT THEIR LEARNING DURING THE LONG SCHOOL CLOSURE. JIM DEFINED BOTH TERMS AND ALSO DEFINED LMS (LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM), WHICH IS THE

GENERAL TERM USED TO DESCRIBE APPS AND SOFTWARE USED TO SET UP DIGITAL CLASSROOMS. THE PROGRAM CURRENTLY USES GOOGLE CLASSROOM AND MOODLE.

- JIM DESCRIBED SOME OF THE TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES THAT HE HAD TO FIND SOLUTIONS FOR IN ORDER TO MAKE SURE EVERY PROGRAM STUDENT HAD ACCESS TO THE SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE NEEDED CONTINUED LEARNING.
- JIM DESCRIBED THE OTHER CHALLENGES STUDENTS FACED WITH STAYING FOCUSED DURING THE SCHOOL SHUTDOWN.
- EACH MEMBER THEN INFORMED THE GROUP ABOUT THE CHALLENGES THEY HAD FACED AND HOW THEIR ARCHITECTURAL FIRMS HAD BEEN DOING THROUGHOUT THE LAST THREE MONTHS.
- JIM INFORMED THE GROUP THAT EVEN WITH THE INTERRUPTION OF LEARNING, HE WAS ABLE TO KEEP THE STUDENTS MOVING AHEAD IN THE CURRICULUM WITH 60% OF THE FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS PASSING THE CERTIFIED SOLIDWORKS ASSOCIATE (CSWA) EXAM.
- JIM RECOUNTED TO THE GROUP THE SUCCESSES OF THE ONE ARCHITECTURAL SENIOR THIS YEAR WHO IS GOING ON TO STUDY CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT AT NORWICH UNIVERSITY. SHE HAS EARNED MANY SCHOLARSHIPS THIS YEAR.
- JIM THANKED BOTH JESSE AND KEVIN FOR JOINING THE CLASSES ON ZOOM TO DISCUSS THE PROFESSION OF ARCHITECTURE AND WHAT ARCHITECTS DO. JESSE COMMENTED HOW MUCH HE ENJOYED IT AND THAT THE INPUT FROM THE STUDENTS WAS VERY POSITIVE.
- JIM INFORMED THE GROUP THAT HE HAS COMPLETED HIS MASTER'S IN EDUCATION THIS SPRING AND SHARED HOW THAT RESEARCH HAS HELPED HIM IN RECRUITING FIVE STUDENTS THAT IDENTIFY AS FEMALE INTO THE PROGRAM. MOST OF THE FIVE ARE INTERESTED IN STUDYING ARCHITECTURE.

- JIM ASKED THE GROUP MEMBERS IF THEY HAD RECEIVED AN EMAIL FROM BOB TRAVERS WITH A POLL FOR ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS TO FILL OUT. SOME SAID THEY HAD AND FILLED IT OUT, SOME SAID THEY WERE GOING TO, AND JESSE SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED ONE. JIM SAID THAT HE WOULD LOOK INTO IT AND GET HIM ONE.
- JIM ASKED THE MEMBERS TO CONSIDER MAKING A SHORT VIDEO (30 SECONDS TO 1 MINUTE LONG) THAT COULD BE SHARED WITH POTENTIAL OR INCOMING STUDENTS TO THE PROGRAM. HE SHARED THE LINK WHICH HAS THE QUESTION: WHAT HAS CTE GIVEN YOU? HE EXPRESSED THAT THESE VIDEOS, ESPECIALLY COMING FROM THIS PROFESSIONAL GROUP, WOULD BE POWERFUL MESSAGING.
- THE GROUP DISCUSSED WHAT THE SITUATION MIGHT BE IN THE FALL WHEN SCHOOL STARTS UP AGAIN. EVERYONE AGREED THAT IT IS TOO SOON TO BE ABLE TO PLAN FOR COOPS AND CAREER WORK EXPERIENCES SINCE EVERY BUSINESS WILL PROBABLY HAVE DIFFERENT RULES FOR ALLOWING OUTSIDERS INTO THEIR PLACE OF BUSINESS. THE GROUP AGREED THAT IT WOULD DISCUSS COOPS FOR NEXT YEAR WHEN THEY MET IN THE FALL.
- THE GROUP DISCUSSED MEETING IN THE SEPTEMBER AND HAVING THE MEETING ON ZOOM AGAIN, ANTICIPATING THAT THERE WILL STILL PROBABLY BE RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE. FUTURE TOPICS FOR THE MEETING WERE MENTIONED:
 - COOPS AND WORK PLACEMENT PLANNING QUESTIONS
 - CRITIQUING OF ARCHITECTURAL STUDENT WORK USING ZOOM

- THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:15 AM.

SUBMITTED BY:

PROGRAM TEACHER: JIM DIRMAIER

DATE: 6/16/20