

CENTER FOR TECHNOLOGY, ESSEX
Engineering / Architecture
Advisory Board Meeting

Minutes – May 6th, 2021

Due to the pandemic, the meeting was held on Zoom for the second year. 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 – Wiemann Lamphere Architects

Jamie Paterson – Co-op Coordinator

Jesse Robbins – Freeman, French, Freeman

- The meeting was called to order at 7:41 AM (technical issues delayed the 7:30 AM start).
- There were no visitors present
- Jim screen shared the agenda:

Agenda for the meeting:

1. 7:30 AM Call to Order
2. Visitors and Staff to be Heard
3. Review: Program operation during the past year and updates
4. Student Projects
5. Discussion of upcoming Advisor Presentations to students:
6. Discussion of student Coop opportunities for next Fall
7. Future Agenda Items
8. 8:30 AM Adjourn

- 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. He asked if there were any staff to be heard and Jamie Paterson responded.
- Jamie Patterson greeted the group and gave an overview of the cooperative education situation this year and the plan for preparing for next year. He reported that, as everybody knew, students were unable to do CWE or Coop placements this year due to covid restrictions. However, he wants to start setting up coops earlier in the next school year to prepare for placements in the future. He asked the group what they think will change with cooperative education next year.

- Jesse commented that the dynamic of office work has changed and that FFF will probably never go back to working in-person five days a week. Booby added that G4 was in the office two times a week. John said that WL was coming back to 50% of their time in the office and that it would probably stay that way for a while. There was discussion on the possibility of students doing a Virtual Shadow Experience. Jesse thought that there were difficulties with that as he is usually in five to six different virtual meetings during a day and there is no opportunity to have a student be involved during those times.

- Jesse Robbins shared with the group that they had just hired a recent program alumni (Ryan Catzzi, 2018) for an intern position at FFF. He mentioned that key factors in Ryan's being hired were his skill with REVIT (which he started learning in the program) and his participation in the SkillUSA National competition.

- Jim described how this year has been different and showed the two-cohort weekly schedule explaining how students were split into an A-cohort and a B-cohort, with Wednesday virtual Zoom meetings as a common time. He described how his knowledge and use of the LMS (Learning Management System), Google Classroom, had helped him keep students engaged in assignments and projects even though they were in the classroom only two days of the week. Jim felt that, with his adaptations, students would still be able to finish about 80% of the curriculum.

- Jim shared with the group that he had been awarded the UVM Outstanding Teacher of the Year for CTE. He thanked the group for being part of making that possible.

- Jim presented and described to the group two projects in architecture that his students were involved in this year.
 - John Terhune, a senior, worked on the design and construction drawings for an Outdoor Classroom at the Albert D. Lawton Middle School. He presented

architectural firms represented on the advisory board use REVIT. Jim suggested having a special seminar in the Fall where the board could go over the use and training of Revit in the two-year progression of the program. Jim Dirmaier said that he would look into creating a revised curriculum progression where they could consider the following skills currently taught in the program:

- Freehand Sketching
- AutoCAD
- REVIT

The group discussed the idea of a REVIT mini-project that would be a proof of proficiency assessment.

- The meeting adjourned at 8:40 AM.

Submitted by:

Program Teacher: Jim Dirmaier

Date: 5/10/21