

CENTER FOR TECHNOLOGY, ESSEX

Engineering / Architecture

Advisory Board Meeting

Minutes – May 17, 2019

The meeting was held in the Engineering/Architectural Design classroom at CTE. The advisory Group was split for this meeting into only the Architectural advisors.

Present at meeting:

Jim Dirmaier – Instructor

Jamie Patterson – Co-op Coordinator

Bill Gardner – GK Architects

John Lamothe – Weimann Lamphere Architects

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 AM.

There were no visitors present

Jim handed out the agenda:

- Jim welcomed the group and went over the agenda for the meeting. Jim noted that there were no visitors present to be heard.
 - the agenda for the meeting:
 1. Call to Order
 2. Review of the Year
 3. Discussion of Industry Partnerships
 4. Discussion of student Coops and CWEs
 5. Discussion of Project Presentations
 6. Future Agenda Items
- Jim introduced everyone to make sure that all participants were acquainted with each other. Breakfast snacks and coffee were made available.
- Jim started with a recap of the year; describing several highlights of the program and of student successes during the current year to date. These included:
 - SkillsUsa: One combined mechanical/architectural team won a gold medal at the Vermont state competition in Engineering Technology/Design. They demonstrated and presented a method of making emergency housing by 3-D printing structures in concrete. One of our Architecture students also won Bronze for their design.
 - Student residential architectural portfolios are progressing well and will be ready for the advisory board to critique the designs later next month. Architectural students

also built a 1/4"=1' model out of gingerbread and Rice Crispies, just before the holiday break. (Jim showed pictures)

- Jim went on to mention that the students were currently learning about house electrical systems and creating electrical plans.
- John recommended that Jim look into using Revit Electrical systems and promised to email a tutorial for that program that the students could use. He also discussed that more and more customers are demanding that architectural firms use full BIM models and include electrical systems. He explained that more and more owners of buildings want the BIM information so that they automate the maintenance of building equipment. Maintenance schedules can be directly created from the Revit models.
- Jim described the in class visits from three board members at different times during the year:
 - Jesse Robbins: (October) Jesse spent time showing students some of the projects that he has worked on and his path in becoming an architect. He spent about two hours with students going over a PowerPoint presentation and then broke out with the architecture students to do desk critiques of their kitchen designs.
 - Bobby Harriman: (April) Bobby set up and demonstrated how he uses the Oculus Rift virtual reality system in showing customers what his designs of their houses will look like. He was able to give virtual walk-throughs of one of the student's completed Revit 3-D models so the class could get a good feel for the design.
 - John Lamothe: John came in and demonstrated the importance of project management and the use of specifications in the architectural and construction industry. He did a classroom exercise to highlight his demonstration.
- The group then commented on these events:
 - John added that specifications are more important than drawings in architecture.
 - Jamie added that "I think it is extremely important to have professionals critique student work". He then went on to describe how the DCM program uses a similar model to critique student work.
 - Bill commented that it is valuable for students to learn that they can learn from someone else's experience. Critiques like this allow for the passing down of important concepts. Bill mentioned that he would be retiring soon and would like to be able to share his knowledge with a younger generation.
 - The group agreed that the partnerships between them and the students was a very good thing.
- Jim and Jamie recapped that there had been two students out, so far, for Career Work Experience during the year and that two more students are set to go out before the end of the year. A total of four students will have gone out to work at Freeman French Freeman and Weimann Lamphere for their 30 hour work experience.
- A discussion ensued on the plans for a group critique of the architectural student project work for this year. The critique was planned for either the 28th or 29th of May and the group decided that the structure of the critique should focus on the following Questions:
 - Why did you choose this design?
 - What was your reason for your lot choice?

- What were the specific considerations that you thought about for your design?
- What was your thought process when creating the design?
- How did the design change and evolve as you worked on it throughout the year?
- What worked well?
- What didn't work, and why?
- What did you learn from this design process?

Students should be instructed to be confident about their answers and to demonstrate to the judges a thorough knowledge of their designs. Judges want to see the thought process.

Students should also be instructed to use the critique as an opportunity to learn and to be open to suggestions of improvement.

- The meeting adjourned at 8:42.

Submitted by:

Program Teacher: Jim Dirmaier

Date: 6/17/19