



AVMT Advisory Committee Minutes-Fall 2015

Date: Thursday, October 15, 2015

Number of Attendees: 15

Called to order: 2:03 pm

Adjourned: 3:16 pm

Chairperson: James Hernandez

Recorder: Jennifer Woods

Members present from industry: **Robert Gill**, Eclipse Aerospace; **Nefi Griego**, Eclipse Aerospace; **Mark Harris**, NMDOT; **Marshall Puckett**, AV Reps International; **Lowell Whitten**, Cutter (ret), NMAAA; **Craig Robertson**, Bendix King; **Bill McMillan**, NMAAA; **Bill Shuert**, Sandia Aerospace, NMAAA

Members present from CNM: **John Bronisz**, Dean of CNM Applied Technologies; **Michael Cranney**, Assoc. Dean of Applied Technologies; **Jeremy Frick**, AVMT Instructor; **Vardis Gaus**, Program Chair; **Sharon Gordon-Moffett**, Dir. Experiential Learning/Perkins Grant Manager; **James Hernandez**, AVMT Instructor; **Jennifer Woods**, Academic Tech Asst.

Next scheduled meeting: Friday April 1, 2016, at 2:00 pm, in conjunction with the NMAAA Board of Directors monthly meeting.

I. Welcome/Introductions: Introductions were made all around.

II. Minutes: Move to accept spring 2015 minutes, seconded

III. Reports:

- Jim Hernandez reported that the FAA has approved the general portion of the curriculum. The Airframe portion will be approved next week and Powerplant will be approved in May of 2016.

IV. Old Business

- A chairperson is still needed to take over the running of the advisory committee. Michael suggested we hold the meeting in conjunction with the NMAAA monthly board meeting. Jeremy reported that Darren Gallacher of SAMS Academy would be able to attend these meetings if they were on a Friday. After discussing who could chair this committee, the group voted and it was decided that Bill McMillan would take over as chair of the committee and that the next meeting with the board would be held here at the ATC in early April on a Friday. Jim briefly explained what the duties of the Chairperson are, and that Jennifer would be helping to coordinate the next meeting.
- Avionics: Jim said that our primary objective right now is to get the A & P curriculum approved by the FAA. Avionics is assumed to be the skills needed to work on the electronics of an aircraft: the black box, autopilot system, servos. Jim wants to know what equipment we would need (electrical trainers) to be able to teach avionics. He also asked if there is a demand in the state of NM for graduates with these skills. The members will be taking a tour of our facilities after this meeting in order to assess what the program needs in the way of training equipment.
- Testing: The WTC already does some of the testing for aviation students. Jason Manzanares is the DME for testing.
- Dual Credit Classes: We are unsure about coordinating with SAMS Academy until the A & P curriculum is approved by the FAA. We plan to look at some crossover classes in the future.

- Drone Association: John said we have a meeting next month with ENMU Roswell in order to discuss CNM becoming a part of a consortium of drone users. ENMU has the same core curriculum that we do, so we are planning to have more conversations with them. CNM purchased (with Perkins grant funds) two small fixed wing drones and we are looking into purchasing helicopters too. Right now, the GIT/Surveying programs are on board with drone technology. Bill M. asked what our ultimate goal is for implementing a UAV program. John said that we are taking baby steps, and in touch with two firms that are using GIS and remote sensing technology. Bill asked if we belong to the AUVSI, a national organization. Michael said that we do not belong, but has been to one of their conferences. NMSU has different objectives from CNM. NMSU is geared toward engineering. CNM is geared toward applications and then repairs and servicing. Marshall mentioned an association called Robotic Skies. Brad Hayden is the founder and is getting ready to service drones around the world. John mentioned an organization located at Cutter Aviation that specializes in leasing unmanned systems for use in first responder and public safety areas. John would like to find out who is doing drone repair in the Albuquerque area.
- Bill M. asked Sharon to talk about the Perkins federal grant, which is a program that ensures that technical career skills are being taught to students. CNM gets about \$1.2 million. Some of the money goes for professional development for the faculty. Some money goes for buying new equipment.

V. New Business

- Bill M talked about the need for air traffic controllers. For various reasons, CNM will not be developing curriculum for ATC. Bill is in touch with a group formed with the Lt. Governor's office that is interested in supporting companies that are already here. The aviation industry in NM brings in a huge amount of revenue to the state, and we need to support these companies. This group strongly supports CNM and its mission. John mentioned that we used to have a pilot training program, but no one ever graduated from it, because flight time is very expensive, and financial aid would not go far enough. An air traffic control program was never in the works, because the FAA hurdles are difficult to overcome. Sharon found the brochure on the ENMU Roswell website that gives information about the ATC program there.
- Michael asked the question, What is the state of the industry?
 - ✓ Michael says that avionics has limited job growth in NM. Marshall says there are jobs elsewhere.
 - ✓ Bill M. says there are a couple of companies in NM that are starting to grow. He will provide contact info for these companies.
 - ✓ Robert said that there are more electronics on drones than on some airplanes, and eventually the FAA is going to start regulating them in regards to maintenance certification.
 - ✓ Jim stated that it takes a lot of training equipment to get on board with avionics in our curriculum. We work mainly with analog systems. Lowell said that understanding wiring diagrams is important. We need ideas for student projects.
 - ✓ Bill S. said that the FAA is hiring A&P workers to do maintenance. Jim asked for help with getting wiring guides so he can create new student projects.
 - ✓ Craig said that analog boxes are still around and not everything has gone digital yet.
 - ✓ Bill M. asked what equipment we need. Robert said he might have access to old components.
- John asked for access to bench model turbine engines, with service information, specifically Alison 250 Surplus. Jeremy wants to get more into overhaul of turbine engines, but says they are very expensive. Jim said that the FAA wants students to be able to disassemble a compressor for inspection, disassemble the combustion section, and also the turbine section. We are looking for leads on donations. Bill S. suggested the NM National Guard for donations. Bill Shuert would be the person to contact about this (bill.shuert@sandia.aero). We want to make sure the parts are not radioactive.
- Lowell mentioned the MRO Show in Dallas (Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul) – April 5, 6, 7. This would be a good place to find out about maintenance needs in the industry. Lowell will get with Jim on this.
- Jim asked about the sale of AMI to Air Sale. Will more jobs be created by this? Can we get them to commit to hiring our graduates? The other members did not have information on this.

VI. Adjournment 3:16 pm