

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

Advisory Committee Notes

April 2, 2004

1. Dr. Walton welcomed the committee and thanked them for committing to work with our program. He gave an overview of the history of the Center of Excellence and the PPO program. He stated that in the next ten years the majority of the power generation industry will retire, nationally and regionally. State and Federal legislators are happy we are addressing this issue now.
2. Steve Miller presented the 19.5 credit certificate program we have currently in Power Plant Operations and he and Terry Cox presented the proposed two-year ATA degree. Comments from committee were that we articulate with Bismarck College in North Dakota. Duncan McCaig from Tractebel suggested that thermodynamics of steam be added to the curriculum . They liked the parallel tracks that meet the educational needs for Lineman, those people in the transmission of electricity and of operators. Charlie Roe suggested that we have advisors who can help students with transfer issues and articulation agreements. Courses should be modularized and portable, as people need training from the Arctic to Baja California.

Other suggestions included replacing the drafting course with Chemistry and Public Speaking or move to the elective category and let students choose Drafting, HAZMAT or OSHA certifications. Basic Lifting and Rigging needs to be included. Environmental issues were suggested.

3. Committee members suggested that we identify our market audience for the program, e.g., entry level, high school graduates, apprentices and experienced operators.
4. Important courses for all incumbent workers and new hires, are theories of power generation and courses in science, math and applied physics.
5. Margie Taylor from TransAlta was asked to be the advisory committee chair. She was voted in unanimously.
6. Mark Johnson shared a prototype of the Center of Excellence website.