

# USUE Welding Technology PAC

April 10, 2024 Agenda

## In Attendance:

Austin Welch – Assistant Professor

Jeremiah Garcia – Instructor

Jake Clement – Instructor

Dusti Jones (Chair) – FlowServe Corp.

Mike Tryon – Intermountain Electronics Corp.

Laddy Penovich – Intermark Steel

Troy Anderson – Pacificorp

## Not in Attendance:

Chad Cloward – Solvay Chemical

1. Program Alignment Update
  - a. UBHE was completely replaced at the end of 2023.
  - b. The new board unanimously approved significant changes to the alignment initiative:
    - i. Programs align to a “core” of like courses only.
    - ii. Programs can award certificates of different lengths (their prerogative)
  - c. Welding alignment is 15 credits
    - i. GMAW I, FCAW I, GTAW I and II, SMAW I and II, Introduction, Measurement Systems
  - d. USU weld programs will continue to offer a 900-hour (30-credit) Certificate
  - e. Alignment to be implemented Fall 2025 (tentative)

*The committee was informed of the recent and significant changes in the alignment initiative from UBHE. It was explained that many of the concerns regarding the constraints of the original alignment initiative (70% alignment, consistent program lengths) are alleviated due to those restrictions being lifted.*

*Comments and concerns by the committee included:*

- *Which courses Eastern intends to continue to require for a CC – math was specifically mentioned. The committee was informed that MATH 1020 (ELET 1110) or higher is required for CC graduates. This was mentioned specifically in reference to the Measurement Systems (1 credit course) required by the alignment. The committee was informed that USU welding programs will continue to require MATH 1020/ELET 1110, which will satisfy the Measurement Systems*

*requirement. The committee was supportive of this. Dusti Jones suggested double-checking the curriculum and instruction in MATH 1020/ELET 1110 to ensure relevancy with industry*

- *Laddy Penovich mentioned that he was concerned with the original alignment's requirement to articulate credits for a Print Reading course through all institutions. It was mentioned that many welding instructors in Utah claim to have the ability to teach their students comprehensive print reading skills in three hours. The committee was informed that Eastern intends to administer a more comprehensive Print Reading course independent from the course outlined in the alignment initiative. The committee is supportive of this.*
- *The committee members expressed their frustrations with many new employees regarding work ethic and punctuality. Laddy Penovich mentioned that Intermark Steel actually incentivizes punctuality with a monthly bonus.*

**Action Items:**

- *Review the curriculum for WELD 1020 and/or ELET 1110 with an appropriate faculty member to ensure relevancy for welding students.*
2. SkillsUSA/WorldSkills results
- a. Program swept Nationals in 2023 – Fabrication and Individual
  - b. Wyatt Hansen and Ben Cornaby placed 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, respectively, in the USA Trials. Wyatt's win marks Eastern's 3<sup>rd</sup> WorldSkills contestant in the last four contests held
  - c. Wyatt is currently training for WorldSkills. His training will include trips to Australia and Canada for international contests

*The committee was informed of the recent competitive success of Eastern students over the past year, and the committee was also informed of future plans for contest participation – including WorldSkills 2024 and WorldSkills 2026. Program faculty expressed appreciation for the financial and material support provided by the industry partners. The committee and faculty members also discussed options for material and financial donations to continue support for these events. Comments included:*

- *Tax incentives for corporate sponsors. Mike Tryon commented that his employer (Intermountain Electronics) is generous, and would be happy to donate materials, cutting services, and more for Gift-In-Kind donation tax incentives. Troy Anderson made similar comments regarding his employer (Pacifcorp), and requested that a specific material list for the contest be provided so donations can be solicited.*
- *Business sponsorships were also mentioned as an option. Mike suggested soliciting sponsorships from local businesses in exchange for displaying welding projects (pressure vessels, sheet metal projects), etc. in exchange for cash donations.*

**Action Items:**

- *Contact Ashley Child to discuss committee concerns with Gift-in-Kind donation procedures, with the intention of finding a way to make the paperwork more efficient and returned to those who donate more quickly.*

### 3. Faculty update

- a. An adjunct faculty was hired beginning Fall 2023 (Ben Clement) to help us meet increased demand
- b. USU requested funding for a 4<sup>th</sup> full-time faculty position to begin Fall 2024 – administration is currently determining if enough money was awarded to hire the position in time for fall
- c. If yes, a faculty search will take place this summer. If not, we will operate with an adjunct for the 24-25 AY, and request the position again in the 2025 legislative session

*The committee was informed that funding was request for a fourth full-time welding faculty member to begin Fall 2024 to satisfy increased long-term program demand and high enrollment, and that a definitive “yes or no” answer hasn’t been given as of the meeting date. It was mentioned that money was awarded through the legislature for TDTE, and that hiring was still a possibility.*

- *The committee asked why the faculty position would potentially NOT be funded, and were informed that program enrollment was lower this year than in prior years. The committee was also informed that the welding program is recruiting heavily this spring, and that higher enrollment is anticipated.*
- *Troy Anderson informed the faculty members that Pacificorp approved four new apprenticeships beginning this fall semester. The apprentices are currently being selected through an application process, and will likely be enrolling in courses by the end of April. Troy also mentioned that an additional six apprentices are anticipated to begin starting Spring 2025.*

### 4. Equipment updates

- a. Jake wrote a grant that resulted in us replacing our CNC PAC with a laser
  - i. The necessary electrical is currently being installed, we anticipate using the laser as early as summer semester

*Jake informed the committee of the laser acquisition, including: writing the grant, the delivery timeline, and the operational timeline for the laser (by the end of this semester) Jake also informed the committee of the laser’s capabilities and potential impacts in the program and students. No concerns were raised.*

### 5. Discuss student employees

*The committee members were invited to share feedback on program students and graduates who they have hired. Laddy Penovich mentioned that the three Eastern students Intermark has hired: Jason Smart, Sam Hurwitz, and Isaac Tatton, have all been good workers and were highly regarded by Intermark. Laddy mentioned that he personally administers print-reading tests to Intermark applicants, and that these three students excelled on those evaluations.*