

Building Inspection Technologies Advisory Committee meeting May 16, 2023 1:30PM

Agenda

1. Program review
2. Examining and responding to labor market/workplace trends;
3. Improving student recruitment;
4. Considering pre-requisite skills;
5. Assessing and responding to regulatory/legislative changes (or initiating such changes);
6. Addressing system-level policy change;
7. Developing work-based learning opportunities;
8. Hearing directly from student representatives;
9. Supporting the professional development of faculty;
10. Improving community relations/awareness; and,
11. Expanding fund/resource development.

Attendees

1. Martin Cooper Chief Building Official Adjunct Faculty
2. Brent Hipsher Chief Building Official Adjunct Faculty
3. Homer Maiel Chief Building Official Adjunct Faculty
4. Michael Mitchel JD. Senior Plumbing Inspector Adjunct Faculty
5. Mark Sherwood, PhD. Design and Measurement Vocational Education Industry Person / Community Representative
6. Bob Rooney Student Representative

Minutes

1. Program review

Discussed what Academic Senate is doing and rather they are going to continue the program or close the program. What metric CSM is using to justify cancelling the program measure program? Do the metrics measure the skillset that the community and the student needs? The current CSM Building Inspection provides the specific skillset for students to be employed in the Building Inspection Industry. The SLO's are developed to incorporate the course content with the skill set to be certified as an inspector by third-party agency. The measurement of success for the students is defined by employment by a private agency or jurisdiction, not necessarily completion of the College of San Mateo certificate or degree program.

In 2017 the Career and Technical Education Division at CSM was ranked 1 out 113 colleges in the state for having improved employment for the students, improved income for the students, and best feedback from the employers. The current program at CSM continues to meet these quality measurements.

2. Examining and responding to labor market/workplace trends;

There is a demographic shift with many students being retired from their careers, with the CSM program providing the opportunity to serve the community.

The state of California is mandating in the state housing element, that every community add 441,000 houses, apartments and condominiums in the to the nine Bay Area counties by 2030, and to build statewide 2,500,000 new housing units by Jan. 31, 2031. This will be an unprecedented demand for Building Inspection Industry professionals that CSM can exploit.

3. Improving student recruitment.

It is critical for marketing student recruitment that the program be listed as a major in AS degree and certificate within the CSM catalog. If only listed as a continuing education program.

Students in the building inspection technology courses have a mixed demographic. They generally range in age from 30 to 45 years old, are looking for career, enhancement or career change, have experience in the construction industry, but not necessarily in the building inspection industry, several students already have advanced degrees.

Almost all of the students work full-time, and the online hybrid course needs to be flexible to meet their life demands. Some students have family members with special needs, others have children in the primary and secondary education system. Other students have long and arduous commute to and from work.

Students enrolling in the Building Inspection Technologies courses are in looking for improved employment opportunities and income associated with the building inspection industry. Additional incentive to the student if the ability to network with peers and receive guidance from instructors for students to serve the industry in an excellent way.

The CSM certificate has only modest value in getting a job in the Building Inspection industry. The real help in getting employment is getting a certificate from the International Code Council. The fact that CSM offers the certificate with a AS degree is the marketing device that allowed students to register for classes at CSM.

Building Inspection professionals need to maintain their professional certifications through continuing education classes under the California Health and Safety Code § 18949.28 to ‘...complete a minimum of 45 hours of continuing education for every three-year period, with at least eight hours regarding disability access requirements...’ There is not a comparable Building Inspection program offered by any other Community College in the Bay Area. CSM should target student enrollment as a means to fulfill the CEUs required under state law.

4. Considering pre-requisite skills;

In general, no pre-requisite is required for the Building Inspections Technologies classes. Specifically, BLDG 720 is the BLDG 725 course.

5. Assessing and responding to regulatory/legislative changes (or initiating such changes);

Fire Technology Group Service professionals are dependent upon their safety upon the Building Inspection industry. There needs to be a higher profile and degree of awareness upon the construction industry of the program CSM offers. It is recommended that there be increased dialog between the Fire Academy and the Building Inspection Technologies division.

6. Addressing system-level policy change;

The Building Inspection Technologies program is designed to serve the community, not academic achievement or transfer to a UC or CSU.

7. Developing work-based learning opportunities;

The Deans Office should partnership with past corporate sponsors such as Tesla, BART, SF Public Utilities Commission, Southern Pacific Railroad, and PG & E.

8. Hearing directly from student representatives;
Students want to continue the Building Inspection Technologies and the Drafting programs at CSM. They do not want the programs transferred to the Continuing Education program. There is now only one instructor in Drafting for four classes.
9. Supporting the professional development of faculty;
The College of San Mateo should hire a full-time faculty member to administer the Building Inspection Technologies program. The instructors all have full time employment and the administration of program is to be the responsibility of full-time staff.

There has been no feedback from the Dean's office for adjunct faculty recruitment or communication with the students as to the future of the program.
10. Improving community relations/awareness;
Market to local jurisdictions and local model code organization chapters to better serve private agency or jurisdiction agency staff.
11. Expanding fund/resource development.
Provide online courses and market throughout the state. Once these online courses are developed and refined they can be then marketed nationwide.