WESTERN PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**MINUTES**

**Component: Civil Engineering Technology/Geomatics Technology**
**Chairman: Don Queen (Acting)**
**Date & Time of Meeting: October 2, 2014**
**Members Present: Don Queen, Mark Young, Ken Suttles, Doug Suttles, Chris Witherspoon, Larry Green, Keith Garrison.**
**Members Absent: Scott Killough**
**Guests Present: None**
**Forward Additional Copies to:** Dr. Michael Helmick, Dr. Chad Bledsoe, Atticus Simpson, Sandra Hoilman and WPCC Minutes. *(WPCC Minutes is listed on Outlook 365)*

Items Discussed:

1. Welcome and Thanks for Serving.
   It was noted that even though our program has one of the lowest enrollments on campus, our Advisory Committee always has great Attendance.

2. The following items were discussed:

   a. Changes to Program – No changes have been implemented since our last meeting.
   b. It was noted that AB Tech has reinstituted both their Civil Engineering and Geomatics Technology Program. These had been cancelled by their previous President.
   c. The recent reaccreditation of WPCC by SACS was discussed.
   d. The fact that Dr. Helmick has replaced Dr. Burnett as the new President of WPCC was noted.
   e. Don asked the group to assess the state of their business. All indicated that they were fairly busy at the current time. Ken also indicated that his company was having a hard time finding "qualified" employees that would stay.
   f. There was a discussion regarding potential changes to the NC law that requires 2 YR Community College graduates to have experience of at least four years before they are allowed to take the Fundamentals of Land Surveying exam. **This went into effect in 2013**. Prior to that, 2 YR graduates could take this first exam upon graduation. Larry Green indicated that to the best of his knowledge, there had been no changes. There was also a discussion that the existing pathway for 2 YR Community College graduates to become a licensed engineer is being **eliminated** in 2016 and only those students who obtain a four year degree will be allowed to take the licensing exams.

3. The continuing problem of low enrollment numbers in the program was discussed in detail.
   a. Don informed the group that there were five new students in the program, but that three of those are day students and two are not students due to work requirements. This does not really help the program a great deal because of the inability to schedule classes that all five can take. Don indicated that we are currently "limping" along in the program due to low numbers, but that he has been teaching courses in other programs.
   b. Don also informed the group that there are currently no active second year students within the program.
   c. Mark Young told the group about the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture, and Math) Program that is in place in Burke County and indicated that this might be a good place to recruit potential students. Don will follow up on this.
   d. Chris asked if it was possible to run more classes totally online so that all of the students could enroll. Don indicated that we are currently offering CIV 240 totally online, as well as other classes in

a “hybrid” format, but that many of the classes in the program would be difficult to run totally online due to the lab requirements. Don indicated that he would continue to look at this issue.

**e.** There is obviously a concern about how budget reductions are going to affect “Low Enrollment” Programs.

**f.** Some of the recruiting that is happening “on campus” was discussed, including programs such as College at the “K” building and the Advanced Manufacturing Day.

**g.** Don showed the group the video for the “Filling in the 50” from the WPCC website and told them that he and a couple of students had actually “laid out” the number (50) on the ground for the video.

**h.** Don also showed the group the article “Better than a Four Year Degree” that has been up on the WPCC website since February. This article was written about one of our program graduates. This article was an attempt to help the public understand that the Surveying Technology program is not gone, but has only had the name changed to Geomatics Technology.

**i.** Mark indicated that there was a strong possibility that the City of Morganton would be willing to hire an intern for next summer. This would give a student a great opportunity to get some hands on experience. Don told the group that he had a student in mind and would investigate this further with Lee Anderson at the City of Morganton, as we move closer to the summer of 2015.

**j.** Mark also offered a suggestion of having a ‘PI’ day at the local high schools in order to recruit. He, as well as other members, indicated that they would be willing to volunteer for this event, if it could be arranged.

**4.** Don closed the meeting by thanking everyone for coming. He also asked the group to contact him at any time if they have questions or suggestions.

**5.** The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.