

Accounting Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2019

Attendees: Nancy Shafer, Myra McGill, Keith Wall, Michael Galloway, Richard Carmody, Rick Rantz, Brent Darwin

New Members

Keith Wall – Accounting Manager, MW Industries – Helical Plant

Everyone introduced them self, gave accounting experience and professional background.

New Accounting Courses. These new accounting courses were approved by AP&P curriculum committee and AHC Board of Directors.

Acct 131 – Financial Accounting 1

Acct 132 – Financial Accounting 2

Acct 105 – Introduction to Accounting

The reason for the change was to improve student success. There was a need for a true introductory course in accounting. The Financial Accounting course was split into a two-semester course because students found it too much material too fast. In reviewing the successful completion rates for the Financial Accounting course over 17 sections, the average was only 47%. These three new courses will be offered beginning in the Fall 2020.

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Also beginning in Fall 2020, all accounting programs (3) will require CBIS 141, Excel. Excel is an expected skill for all accountants.

Mike Galloway & Keith Wall both commented that they expect their employees to be skilled in the basics of Excel.

Course & Program Offering Review

Handouts of the Accounting A.S. program, Accounting Certificate of Achievement, Bookkeeping Certificate of Achievement were distributed.

All three programs have been updated to include the new accounting courses and Excel.

Discussion held about offering other courses. Discussed what other topics that we might teach.

Question raised about prerequisites necessary for students working in accounting to take Acct150 QuickBooks? Conclusion was that students need Financial Accounting or Bookkeeping to reasonable expect success in QuickBooks.

Discussion also held regarding the Hancock effort to present Guided Pathways to the students. These are clearly defined educational paths to completion based on student interest. Questions raised about Hancock's commitment to offering classes according to the prescribed schedule if enrollment is low.

With Rick's leadership, we have created a four-semester accounting class schedule incorporating the new classes. It will need fine tuning after Rick reviews it.

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In addition to providing better, more helpful information to students during their Hancock academic career, there is an increased emphasis on helping students get through college in a reasonable period of time by completing their program. This is due in part to a change in the funding formula of community colleges by the state.

Desired Employee Skills

Questions raised and discussion help about important knowledge & skills for YOUR employees? It was commented how commercial accounting software can minimize the need for accounting skills at the entry level. Keith and Mike stated the need for analytical thinking skills, the ability to think through a situation.

Also, problem solving skills are needed in employees. How can we incorporate more problem-solving training in our accounting courses?

Communication skills are also valued by employers. The ability to communicate the entire picture with all the pertinent information is important, but not always found in employees.

Mike said his employees need the good foundation in accounting basics, such as debits and credits.

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Enrollment and Hancock Promise Students

For the Fall semester, it was noted head count was down about 2.5, but the full-time equivalents were up slightly over last year. The consensus was that students are taking more units on average.

Closing Comments

Rick thanked everyone for their good work. Brent expressed appreciation to each of them for their time today and their interest in the success of Hancock students.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brent Darwin