



AUTOMOTIVE SERVICING TECHNOLOGY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

DATE: Monday, October 12, 1981
TIME: 1:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Auburn Hills Campus
Conference Room, B-217

- 1) The new members of the committee were introduced. Carl Melinat will be replacing Kenneth Hausauer from GMC Truck & Coach Division. Mr. Melinat is a supervisor in the dynamometer department at GMC Truck & Coach as well as a part time instructor in the Diesel Truck and Heavy Equipment Technology program at Oakland Community College. Tony Hildebrandt is the full time faculty member responsible for the Automotive Servicing Program.

- 2) Booklets outlining the program were distributed to committee members. This booklet is sent to high schools and includes the performance objectives for the automotive servicing specialty courses. Students are not required to take the entire program. They may elect only to specialize in certain specific areas. In order to facilitate expansion of knowledge in specialty areas, there are some revisions being proposed to the program. These will be in the form of new specialty courses. In addition, there is a possibility of offering non-credit short courses with emphasis on specifics for any current model year. One additional suggestion made was to include a course covering the parts portion of automotive servicing. It was also recommended that a parts store representative should be included on the advisory committee. There is also a need for a course pertaining to electrical trucks. Mr. Harris stated that he would like to assist in the development of such a course and may be able to locate some parts and components to be utilized in the instruction of such a course.

Enrollment in this program is doing extremely well. There is some concern about the availability of jobs for graduates of the program. It appears that this particular geographic area is presently saturated with mechanics. Some graduates have left the state and have been successful in finding employment elsewhere. The current trend in this area appears to be a swing from specialist to generalist shops. Specialists, of course, may be used in such a shop, but greater marketability is achieved with a wider background of skills.

The difficulty with placing students is found even with the IND 140.3 and IND 240.3 - Cooperative and Advanced Cooperative Internship courses. In some cases, the students are placed in the Auto Servicing garage to take incoming vehicles needing service. Though not an actual commercial garage, this does provide the student with a wide variety of servicing problems. Diagnosis of problems is covered in all courses throughout the session, with special emphasis placed on this aspect near the end of the course, after the fundamentals have been covered.

- 3) Since the institution of the program, the facilities and equipment have been renovated and upgraded. This process will continue as necessary and feasible. It is desired that workbenches be added to the classroom facilities to allow for additional workspace and to avoid having this available space standing idle.

There is some concern about the tools that are broken to the point of being dangerous. Some tools are also missing. Due to the large volume of students at any one time in the labs and the disproportionate number of tool crib attendants, some shortage could be anticipated. The breakage is due in part to improper usage of the tools and also to the fact that the tools purchased initially were not of the best quality. It was pointed out that, since theft is not a major problem, it would probably be better in the long-run to invest in the highest quality tools that can be repaired and not just replaced.

- 4) When finalized, a copy of the Winter term schedule offerings will be sent to the advisory committee members. It is planned to offer both day and evening sections of all courses plus an extra Brake Systems Servicing and Engine Tune-up and Emission Servicing class. It was brought up that classes of 25 to 27 students are too large to effectively cover all the material that is intended to be covered in these courses. Twenty-two students was suggested as the maximum number that should be handled.

With the large demand for these courses, there is a need for part-time staff to cover the courses. At the present time the most difficult courses to staff are Automatic Transmission Minor Servicing and Automotive Air Conditioning and Heating Service. Also, day sections are tougher to staff than evening sections. Any assistance that the advisory committee could provide with this situation would be greatly appreciated. Any recommendations should be made to Mr. Hildebrandt as early as possible to facilitate an orientation process.

- 5) Some concerns about the operation of the program as it now exists were mentioned. These include a need for more help in the laboratory situations. Currently student aides supplement the use of a paraprofessional in each lab. Also, storage and final placement of equipment must be done. Specifically the diesel caging equipment has not yet been installed. There will be follow-up on these concerns.
- 6) The next meeting will be April 12, 1982 at 1:00 p.m. at the Auburn Hills Campus.