



Purchasing & Supply Chain Management Advisory Committee

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

3:30 – 5 p.m.

Via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/895607737>

MEETING MINUTES

Advisors Present: Sam Kaplan, Director, Global Supply Chain Center of Excellence
Jason Phelps, VP, Taphandles
Diego Ruelas, HR Manager, Yusen Logistics

Staff Present: Shanon Reedy, Cris Walters, Matt Versdahl

3:35-3:45 Welcome and Introductions Matt

- Committee introductions.
- No quorum – May 31st meeting minutes were not approved.
Staff will get approval via email.

3:45-3:55 Topic: Sam Kaplan’s Program Overview Sam

- Sam gave an overview of his Study Abroad Program. Students from four (4) community colleges participate in a year long study pertaining to supply chain management, culminating in a trip to Vietnam. Students are selected in Fall Quarter. Companies from Seattle (Brooks) and Wenatchee (Apples) provide guest speakers and set up facility tours for the students through Winter and Spring Quarters. In September, the students travel to Vietnam to experience the full circle of the supply chain in action. Outcome: Builds global awareness, business skills, exposure to other cultures and students in the same program in Vietnam.
- Sam detailed the costs covered by sponsor donations, along with each school’s foundation contribution, leaving the cost per student \$600.00, allowing for a much more diverse group of student participation.
- Sam would like Shoreline College to join the other four colleges and offered his help in making this happen. He would like to start with two (2) students.

Shanon: Are credits given for this program?

Sam: No, not yet. Some instructors allow a participating student to use this as a “project” in another class that they are enrolled in.

3:55-4:25 Topic: Degree and Certificate Program Review..... Matt

- Matt reviewed the courses that comprise our AA Degree and Certificate programs, noting that many students choose to “stack” the certificate programs that will then amount to a completed AA degree. Many are working while attending school. Matt would like to see employers send their employees to Shoreline for additional skills training.

Matt: What can we do to make our program appealing to employers? Are we providing the best training possible? What can we do to entice more students into our program? What recommendations do you have to improve our program?

Jason: Yes, I think you offer a well-rounded core program. I find there to be a lack of basic excel skills in graduates who I encounter. I would like more emphases placed on fundamental data organization and the basic skills of merging and managing the data to create and understand their next steps. Surprised at the lack of skills, I spend time teaching them.

Diego: I agree, I also see gaps in office tools skills. Students copy data, but don’t know how to create a graph or drop the data into a PowerPoint presentation. We see a lack of understanding of IT breaches, the basic knowledge about using open source and clicking on data without knowing the risk for security.

Shanon: We offer skills courses elsewhere, maybe these should be listed in electives.

Matt: Agrees, stresses importance of Data Science, AI, Machine Learning.

Matt and Shanon: Agreed to take another look at electives to revise what is offered.

4:25-4:45 Topic: Job Market Review Matt

- Matt asked the advisors what they do to recruit new employees and what could he do to interest more students into this program?

Sam: We do economic analysis of data and jobs in the state. We look at location, salary, what kind of jobs, dashboard lists, jobs in the industry, how many, and what education is needed. Hiring has slowed down; we expect an increase in 2024. The economy has slowed down. During pandemic not much traveling, instead people were buying more. Now there’s more traveling, and less buying. Less robust labor market. Another 12 months expected.

Diego: I agree, things have slowed down since the pandemic. I suggest that you emphasize awareness of everyday things: groceries, phones, to remind your students that there is a process for delivery of all these daily things. Products on shelf due to the work of supply chain people. In this economy, people buy less, the demand is not as high. Inflation pinching \$\$\$. Companies are not adding as many new positions.

Matt: what can we do prepare students for changing environment?

Diego: Students need to be flexible, adapt, be good at quick changes. Quick to learn new methods, understand logistics on all the ways product travels: by road, by rail, by sea, by air.

Sam: Stress critical thinking skills, soft skills, be nimble. During pandemic, we needed new ways to get goods to market, be creative finding solutions and problem solving.

Matt: good points, we want to partner with those who stay up with all the changes. Resilience is important. Change can unravel systems (pandemic), students need to be able to pivot.

4:25-4:45 Closing Comments Matt, Shanon

- Shanon provided college updates: enrollment is slightly up for Fall, now we have an uptick over 2 quarters. New STEM building with another planned. We're grateful that the college allowed FT faculty for this program, and we're excited to see how it grows under Matt's expertise. He has the full support of the college to build relationships and increase awareness of this program. We are looking to create on-campus classes so that VETs and other populations can access this training.

Sam: I noticed the dorms, are they primarily for international students?

Shanon: they are mostly occupied by international students but are open to anyone.

Sam: what are the tops numbers of students coming from what countries?

Shanon: I don't know but I will get that info for you.

Shanon + Matt will meet to further discuss the Vietnam Study Abroad program, and how best to approach the college and the foundation. Sam offered his help.

Matt: Will work on getting Jason and Diego added to the Advising Group. He will get quorum approval via email.

4:55 Meeting Adjourned