

# Program Name: Construction Management Technology – South Campus

## Advisory Committee Meeting Record

CHAIRPERSON: Dr. Rebecca Burleson, Vice President, Linbeck Group, LLC		
MEETING DATE: February 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	MEETING TIME: 9:30-11:30	MEETING PLACE: SETC – South Campus
RECORDER: James Howard		PREVIOUS MEETING: Nov, 9 2018

MEMBERS: (P = Present)

OTHERS PRESENT:

(P?)	Name and Title (List all members)	Business Affiliation	
	James Howard, Construction Management Technology, Coordinator	Tarrant County College	
	Brian Richards	Balfour Beatty Construction	
	[Heeley Jonas]	David Weekley Homes	
	Adam Cornett	David Weekley Homes	
	Blake Christian	Archer Western	
	Nicholas Spencer	Department of Transportation	
	[Lionel Meres]	Michael Baker International	
	James Norwine	Key Construction	
	Chris Jordan	Electro Acoustic	
	Clint Clements	Beck Group	
	Keith Thomas	Tarrant County College	
	Susan [no last name given]	Tarrant County College	
	Ernest Gines, Dean	Tarrant County College	
	Victoria (no last name given) Flores	Student, Construction Management Technology Program	

**Changes in Program**

JAMES HOWARD: This is the advisory meeting for construction management on November 9, 2018. I am James Howard. I am the coordinator for construction management technology program. And Keith Thomas, he became a new full-timer last September.

The initial chair of our industry advisory group was Bob Benda. Bob served for almost five years and asked that we find someone new to lead. I've requested Becky Burleson to become the new chair.

By show of hands, approval for Becky to serve... Approved.

**Room Introductions**

JAMES HOWARD: I am going to let everybody introduce themselves. Start with Victoria here. Victoria is one of our students. She is the Senator in our student organization, and she's also one of the competitors in the NAHB student competition this year. So, she's got her hands full. Awesome.

VICTORIA: I will be graduating in the fall. I want to be a general contractor with my dad. And eventually, I want to go back to become a teacher because that is what I think I can do the best. So, yes, thank you.

LIONEL MERES: My name is Lionel Meres (phonetic) I work for Michael Baker International. I graduated school from TCC this December of last year. I was the President for construction management, and I'm a construction inspector at Michael Baker.

JAMES: I am filling in for John Hamilton. John's an Archer Western's President and manager of the firm. I'm a project manager and helping with procuring the work.

JAMES NORWINE: with Key Construction. I also graduated from TCC. I'm a project manager with Key Construction. We do commercial hospitals, ag centers, schools, hotels, things like that.

CHRIS JORDAN: Chris Jordan with Electro Acoustics. We do large scale audio/video lighting systems, like the Dickies arena, PG stadium, stuff like that.

BECKY BURLESON: I'm Becky Burleson, Vice President of Linbeck Group here in Ft. Worth. And happy to serve as Chairperson for the next few years.

BRIAN RICHARDS: I'm Brian Richards. I'm Vice President of Balfour Beatty construction. I run the Tarrant county Ft. Worth district.

HEELY JONAS (PHONETIC): I'm Heely Jonas. I'm with David Weekley Homes, and I'm our career specialist.

BECKY BURLESON: February.

JAMES HOWARD: February? Okay. But since our school starts right after Martin Luther King day, but we actually now start a week before. So, our schools start a week early.

NICK SPENCER: And that would be good because I think we've run two of them, and we haven't given them enough notice, for students or to the potential employers. It's been real choppy the last two times and we want to correct that.

BECKY BURLESON: It just needs to get into a standard rhythm, and then people know what to expect. We have already made our intern offers and acceptances this year. We are holding one for TCC because it was out of sequence with other institutions.

JAMES HOWARD: For us, that means, it's going to be, you said, February. So, we're looking at September/February.

BECKY BURLESON: Okay.

NICK SPENCER: I agree.

JAMES HOWARD: September and February. So, September ones, we're going to look for people in terms for spring. February, it'll be summer and fall internships.

NICK SPENCER: Like I said, the interns that are going out are actually getting hired by the companies. We need to get more of the home builders in too because we don't want that to be short, and the home builders are a big supporter of the program.

JAMES HOWARD: Yeah, so is the NAHB.

NICK SPENCER: Yeah, we need to work in-house how we can make that happen more for both the industries.

JAMES HOWARD: We'll get -- probably middle of February again. That'll give us enough time to do everything. We can get the thing going. So, for us, well, we can put out the notice, as soon as we get back from first week, second week of school.

**Speaker Series for Students**

JAMES HOWARD: We've been bringing in both commercial and residential speakers to meet with the student organization. Usually, we do it a night event. Something I think we may want to look at this coming year is having a "line up" over a full-year time period. We can get the people to set up so we can create posters and get them out, and put them out to everybody.

I'm looking at what the four-year college is doing; they'll have a

six, and it'll be seven by the end -- by the beginning of spring.

NICK SPENCER: We had senior day last week where all of the seniors from the local high schools come in and kind of look at the different programs on campus. We got a lot of seniors that are interested in the program coming in. So, we're kind of anxious to see what the reflection of that is as far as students in the program. But we had a really good turnout at the senior day.

JAMES HOWARD: I'll jump down to dual-prep program. We now have embedded instructors at Mansfield, and we have it at Lake Worth. We also got, this semester, PT dual credit courses here on campus for OEY. So, we have high school seniors, that are coming in and taking courses with us now. So, we're getting them ready so they'll be able to pursue this career.

NICK SPENCER: Are we still looking at doing an infomercial for the construction program?

JAMES HOWARD: Yeah, we're trying to get that. Right now, it's on the back burner. But still we're looking at how to increase ourselves now, and we starting to look at getting into all the high school population.

BECKY BURLESON: How many full-time equivalents do you have teaching those 263 construction students?

JAMES HOWARD: I have six adjuncts right now plus Keith and I. Keith is teaching 24 hours credit hours. I'm at 22. That's at least four, four-and-a-half FTE's. And we cannot increase the population of students until we get more people to teach. The adjuncts are held at 9 hours max and we are held at actually 21. About 15, 21 with permission by the President, and then 24 with permission of the chancellor.

BECKY BURLESON: Has the request for an additional faculty position already been made? Is it in the process?

JAMES HOWARD: No, it has not. I think the last time we were doing our accreditation, it was one of the recommendations by the accreditation committee. They required us to add a second person. And we were not even at that 260. That gave enough strength to the President to say, okay, we'll do it. We'll just have to get the data there for him to say we need that third person now.

We're also limited here in this building to a certain number of people per class. All the labs have a set number of people that can be in the class based off of the fire marshal requirements. Our labs are max at 18 or 15 depending on which lab. All the classrooms are limited to like 30 people.

KEITH THOMAS: Inaudible [student placement data]

scholarship from them this year, and we actually got a \$1,500 travel scholarship.

BECKY BURLESON: James, when that group came, they had some specific things they wanted to see done before the next visit and installment. Is there any specific action we need to do as a committee that supports you in ensuring that the third installment is successful?

JAMES HOWARD: Yes, actually, that's what we've been looking at; looking at getting groups of here. At one time, I think we had something like 40 people in the advisory committee, but what I would like to see is I want to try to get more residential people here. And I need to get more residential involved. I've been working with the NAHB -- the Ft. Worth Greater Home Builders Association before, and they're very responsive. It's still not a smooth transition with us right now.

ADAM: I don't remember. Kimberly Bradford? (phonetic).

JAMES HOWARD: Kimberly, yes. I talk with her periodically.

BECKY BURLESON: One thing that the group wanted to see was that some of the students are, going into the home building industry. So, they were specifically looking for placement statistics. It didn't have to be a general home builder, it could have been a specialty trade contractor that does residential work.

When they came, they were a little concerned about the change in leadership. James did a great job with faculty and the students who came in were lights out. Congratulations getting that second payment. But we owe it to them to have some good, clear information and --

JAMES HOWARD: Some data.

ADAM: Is it one of those things that from -- you know, obviously when you're looking residential looking at home builders like us, and/or other builders. But is it -- is supposed to be just home builders? Do we need some support industry residential construction, i.e. some of the -- whether it is HVAC, Electrical but they do predominantly residential work or labor perspective when it comes to some of our labor vendors?

BECKY BURLESON: This group was open to counting all of that. All of that feeds that residential sector. So, if there's any sort of student engagement, they were looking for student projects that could have happened. It can be community service projects, internships, it can be guest speakers. They were looking to see any of those things that happen in an educational setting. They want to see that the grant is starting to make an impact.

JAMES HOWARD: And TCC does. I think TCC doesn't like to call it an "internship". They call it training. It's a non-paid position, but they dig the opportunity to actually deal with small projects throughout the entire five campuses. But I would like to get more involvement of the community. We have a lot of students who said they're already working, and they can then get their company to help them through that.

BECKY BURLESON: Can I make a plug on scholarships?

JAMES HOWARD: Sure.

BECKY BURLESON: The scholarships at TCC are modest but meaningful and really impactful. You can set up an endowed scholarship here for \$30,000. They also have what's called named scholarships. All you have to do is get \$5,000 in that account, and then you replace dispersed amounts. Because of the low credit hour cost, a \$500 scholarship makes a big difference for these young people who are working their way through school. The school does a terrific job of telling you who your student recipient is, you get to meet them.

JAMES HOWARD: Yes, they do. And they push to get those scholarships awarded.

BECKY BURLESON: Yeah, you can structure it the way you want it. A little bit of money goes a long way, and that easy entry point is \$5,000. If \$500 is awarded, then you just replenish. If you ever decide that's enough, then they just burn it off the balance and the scholarship ends.

BRIAN RICHARDS: And I did once, just like Balfour Beatty, they added an additional benefit of an internship. The lady who got it this year, she is head over heels when she finds it. It sets them up already. That means their path is already set forth.

BECKY BURLESON: That's great.

CHRIS JORDAN: In addition to that, I started a committee for a trade scholarship. We got five scholarships for trades.

JAMES HOWARD: Yeah, that would be a nice thing. And looking at more scholarships and internships maybe tied but scholarships are great. The students really do appreciate -- you'd be surprised how this thing has made their lives so much easier.

CHRIS JORDAN: So, what Rotary will pay for the first year. Tarrant County College will then match that, and Rotary district will then match that, and TCC will match that again.

JAMES HOWARD: The grant from Housing Endowment includes scholarships. We have an entrepreneur certificate. So,

LIONEL MERES: And you say, okay, with the specs. Some of them have no idea that there's new specs come out, they've been revised, they've been thrown out.

JAMES HOWARD: So, at some days we found students get overwhelmed. When you take a book and specs and going across the board, it's like "Oh, my God! No, no."

BECKY BURLESON: I understand, but students have to "eat the elephant one bite at a time". But the process of rummaging around in drawings, plans, and specs, and contracts, to find out what our obligations are, it's that process. You have to find out what you don't know to be able to manage and get ahead of it.

BLAKE CHRISTIAN: I think we really need help with students coming out with some better people skills. People that like the technology or like the industry and building often times are very introverted, very reserved -- kind of shy away from interactions. They need help with small group communications, how to present themselves, how to interview. They need just help with communications and conflict resolution --

BLAKE CHRISTIAN: We don't mind teaching the technical things, I think we can help them understand initiative and being able to go out and, you know, if we have a problem with somebody, how do we talk about or get to a resolution? Not just cause it to blow up.

JAMES NORWINE: Patience and perseverance.

JAMES HOWARD: Patience, perseverance.

BLAKE CHRISTIAN: Yeah, it's kind of counterintuitive, I think, for the students. From their perspective they think they're learning a technical degree, which is true, but they forget this is big business, it's people business, it's relationship business. If they want to go very far, they need all those skills and attributes.

CHRIS JORDAN: Pardon the phrase, but you need the course and give a shit.


JAMES HOWARD: I think that's a good one.

BECKY BURLESON: Yeah, some ownership, ownership.

CHRIS JORDAN: That's right.

ADAM: Effective communication is one of the things that suffers in the digital world. the more we get, you know, people in on phones.

	<p>BECKY BURLESON: What was eye-opening? To see the students compete?</p> <p>LIONEL MERES: Going to this competition to me meant a lot. Because even though I didn't participate, it gave me the insight of home-building opportunities that are coming up, you know? All the new technologies, all the new materials, and how the things are progressing throughout.</p> <p>JAMES HOWARD: The builder show is pretty great. It's one of the biggest for home builders right now, and that's good.</p> <p>BECKY BURLESON: What did you think of your peers? Watching your peers present, compete, and speak? Was it inspiring?</p> <p>LIONEL MERES: Yeah, you go see people and other students, and you're like, man, that's what you got to go against. Not only in the school level, but out in the business level. You got people that you get to thinking, how you can make yourself better more and learn more about the industry, you know, get deep into it.</p> <p>JAMES HOWARD: If that's the case, then we will -- we're done for the day. We're -- we'll hear a proposal for adjournment. Second? Approved unanimously.</p> <p>BECKY BURLESON: Okay, we're done.</p> <p>JAMES HOWARD: Thank you guys. I appreciate your help and get your insights and suggestions.</p> <p>[End of Session]</p>
Curriculum Decisions:	None
Other:	None

CHAIRPERSON SIGNATURE (or designee): 	DATE: 11/15/19	NEXT MEETING: TBD
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