



## AUTOMOTIVE TASK FORCE

October 23, 1991

Present: Larry Bennett  
Joe Burdzinski  
Tony Hildebrandt  
Larry Pennefather  
Bill Rose

Dr. Rose began the meeting by speaking of the necessity of consolidating the ATA and AUT programs, due to the lack of enrollment in most of the AUT courses. However, it was pointed out by Tony Hildebrandt that we need to consider the use of AUT terminology in our course titles and descriptions, since that is the only type of program which is accepted for transfer by four-year colleges.

Dr. Rose pointed out that the AUT program will be discontinued in its present form by the Fall of 1992 and, hopefully, will be consolidated with ATA courses. The intent is that the consolidation will provide a program that will maintain an adequate enrollment. This program may include business partnerships, tech prep option, dealership training and other business and industrial training options.

Dr. Rose stated that what is needed is a plan of action outlining what needs to be done by phases. Then special contracts can be written for the work that needs to be done in each phase. He stated that an advisory committee needs to be put together, and an effort needs to be made to develop industrial partnerships, such as with dealerships.

Larry Pennefather mentioned the meeting to be held October 25, 1991, between the OCC Technology Department and the Engineering Department of Oakland University. He expressed the importance of Tony Hildebrandt and Larry Bennett attending this meeting to explore possible 2+2 opportunities with OU in the Automotive area, and/or the possibility of providing a few elective classes to be taken by their engineering people who may need exposure to the practical aspects of automotive mechanics.

Larry Bennett stated that there is a need to reduce the list of classes, which means it must be determined which classes are really necessary. He has prepared a list of the AUT courses and what is covered in each. He provided a copy to each group member. He suggested that if Tony could provide similar course descriptions for the ATA courses, they could determine areas of overlap and how consolidation might be possible. It was agreed that a course such as AUT 111 is needed as a foundation for both programs.

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Dr. Rose requested that for the next meeting an attempt be made to identify two advisory committees. However, Larry Bennett expressed the view that this cannot realistically be done without knowing in what direction the programs are moving.

Dr. Rose reported that Macomb County Community College has contacted us about the possibility of working with us in the automotive area. Their current enrollment is 300 students.

The group agreed that the greatest need in the automotive area is for students to be able to take one or two semesters of classes and then be able to get an entry-level job.

It was agreed that there are problems that need to be worked on in the area of staff and equipment. There is also a need to create interest among high school students in the area. It was mentioned that Orchard Ridge has a career night to which it invites high school students and their parents. As a part of its marketing plan, this group could recommend that the Auburn Hills Campus hold a similar career night in order to market all our programs, including the Automotive programs.

Dr. Rose requested that this group meet every two weeks for one hour and that the members work between meetings on developing a plan. He requested that, before the next meeting, Tony Hildebrandt and Larry Bennett meet together to come up with a plan which will include the programs' direction and courses to be offered. Then each of them can be given a special contract to develop a piece of the plan. He stated that if things continue as they are now, with the low enrollment in AUT, we will lose one program. In order to prevent this, we need to document the fact that we are making a serious effort to keep the programs current by revising and updating as needed.

The next meeting of this group will be at 4:00 p.m. November 6, 1991, in room B-215.

Submitted

  
Ruth Springer