



Business Partnership Council Meeting Minutes

Interior Design Program

Wednesday, December 12, 2012

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Room TC 316, Technology Center, Lake Worth Campus

ITEM 1 – Welcome and Introductions

Interior Design Department Chair Zenaida Espinosa welcomed all committee members. Self introductions and a brief description of each member's background were given.

ITEM 2 – Business Partnership Council Role

Professor Espinosa provided an overview of Palm Beach State College Business Partnership Councils' mission and goals.

ITEM 3 – Interior Design Program Overview and Suggestions for Improvement

Professor Espinosa provided members with an overview of the Interior Design Program as well as current curriculum information. Areas addressed for improvement by the Council were:

Professional Practices

Ms. DeSantis indicated that emerging professionals usually question how to go about having a viable document (contract/letter of agreement) that protects the designer and the client. In addition, they also question fee structure and the options that are available as well as what works best in today's economy and factoring in that many clients like to shop the internet.

Professor Espinosa indicated that both contracts and fee structure are covered under IND 2505 Professional Practices course. The general consensus was that future graduates would enhance their knowledge of business documents and practices when they are employed. This becomes an important step in their professional development as opposed to going into business on their own.

Ms. Fedele added that students should also be familiar with the process of procuring goods on behalf of the client. This would include obtaining quotes from manufacturers as well as preparing proposals, collecting deposits and final balances along with sales tax.

Recommendation: continue providing students with assessments that include contract writing and fee structure applications. Incorporate assignments with product proposals and quotes.

Millwork Design

Ms. Merten indicated that a good number of her projects include custom units and that students should develop their skills on custom millwork design.



Recommendation: continue including assignments that require the design of custom millwork.

Computer Drafting

Professor Espinosa explained the different software used in IND 2460C CAD for Interiors 1 and IND 2463C CAD for Interiors 2. In the past, AutoCAD was used in both courses. In the last 2 years, the 3-D software Revit has been included in CAD 2. The Council discussed the pros and cons of including Revit.

Ms. Grammer stated that design firms either embrace Revit or not use it at all. Students should take time learning the AutoCAD software well. It was agreed that Revit is a program that may be best taught in a stand alone course, and that it is more important for students to hone their skills in AutoCAD.

Ms. Cowell was absent but provided feedback via email stating that AutoCAD is a tool we all use and is a basic knowledge needed today in our field. Ms. Cowell added that Revit is optional and that changes in the coming years may increase the demand for renderings, etc. However, AutoCAD commands and basic knowledge is what will help build the foundation for any other software program students wish to enhance their technical skills.

Recommendations: CAD 1 & 2 should only cover AutoCAD in order for students to be proficient using the software. In addition, to be competitive in the field, it would be beneficial for students to supplement their technical skills by taking workshops or short courses in other software including but not limited to Photoshop, InDesign, Excel, and Revit.

Specifications

Ms. Cowell brought up the topic of specifications and for students to understand cut sheets and creating control sheets. Although more common in commercial design, introducing students to programs such as Design Manager or Studio IT would be beneficial.

Professor Espinosa commented that in IND2424C Technical Design 2 students work on a project that requires putting together a set of construction drawings and specifications. Students are informed about the different software types available such as Design Manager.

Recommendations: continue including and emphasizing the importance of contract documents.

ATTENDANCE

Gosia Fedele
Nancy DeSantis
Zenaida Espinosa

Karen Gonzalez
Rhonda Grammer
Georgia Merten

Tammy O'Rourke
Joseph Pubillones
Denise Couture Cowell

Submitted by:

Zenaida Espinosa, Scribe