

Summary of the Slot Technology Program Steering Committee meeting on February 10, 2009

The meeting was opened by reviewing the minutes from the November meeting. The prime objective of the meeting as listed in the agenda was previewed. Specifically, keeping the core courses current, and this meeting focused on the review of the objectives, outcomes, and materials of the "Introduction to Slot Technology" course. The first of the core slot technology courses.

Course Objectives and Outcomes. The review started with the course objectives and outcomes as listed on the syllabus and the sequence of subjects covered per the syllabus. There was a question from an industry attendee about course materials for the students to access since there wasn't a textbook listed for the course. The following were the key points discussed about study materials for students:

- One of the key uses of the gift from AGEM was the production of a textbook for slot technicians and the program is aiming for a fall printing of the book by the Nevada System of Higher Education's publisher.
- The current course uses such materials as on-line resources such as articles from trade publications that are available on-line, for example http://www.strictlyslots.com/archive/0403ss/SS0304_Innovative.pdf, old training videos from manufacturers, extracts from manufacturers' slot machine manuals, partial copies of patent applications, and preliminary extracts from the book that Jim Jennings is writing.

Another industry representative questioned the types of assessments used in course and the following are key points discussed on that topic.

- Written quizzes, a Mid-term and Final utilized for grade assessment during the class. Many of the quizzes and both tests have hands-on performance parts. These performance tasks range from identify key subassemblies, to identifying differences between attendant and service mode features, to game and statistic recall on video and reel EGMs.
- The class also includes labs where students perform such tasks as replacing printer paper, remove, clean and replace buttons, to troubleshooting error conditions, to moving EGMs.
- Demonstrations of such tasks as Key Chipping are also part of the course.

Course Structure. It was covered by relating weekly syllabus topics to on-line weekly Learning Modules (LM). The LMs provide an overview of that week's materials and links to lecture slides, links to on line resources, on-line preliminary book content, and links to videos. The following were reviewed as representative examples:

- Learning Module 1 <http://sites.csn.edu/slots/ET138B/LM-1.htm>
- Learning Module 7 <http://sites.csn.edu/slots/ET138B/LM-7.htm>

- Learning Module 11 <http://sites.csn.edu/slots/ET138B/LM-11.htm>

Students are advised to review any supporting materials while reviewing lecture slides before class. During class students are lectured on the subject for that session. There usually is a demonstration and/or Lab on the subjects covered.

Course content. During the discussion of the course outcomes, objectives, syllabus, and structure a number of points were raised on missing topics and emphasis.

- EGM setup steps and the basics aspects of the process should be covered. The configuration process should be performed in latter classes.
- The key factors and an overview of the process involved with casino floor layout should be covered. The student should have an overview of the processes involved with casino floor layouts and understand why EMS are moved, themes changed, etc.
- The purchasing process should be covered as part of the degree or certificate.

Target groups for the course . The original groups that were targeted by the course were covered by reviewing the old flyer and anecdotal information about students was covered. Specifically some of the students take the course because they are perusing either the Certificate of Achievement or degree and the course is required for both. The driving force for the certificate or degree may be to improve their chances for a job. Others apparently plan to complete just enough courses to assist with obtaining a job. A very few have taken the course for fun.

The suggestions on marketing the course are listed below:

- To Casino Human Resource departments as a training course for new hires from outside the industry, for familiarization of floor attendants with EGMs (the technology is always changing but the core functions remain).
- To slot managers that may have input on hiring floor attendants and technicians – they may recommend the course to those looking for a job.
- Casino managers that aren't that familiar with EGMs
- The attendees were also supportive of the a related degree that focused upon technicians for Kiosks, ATMs, vending and other self-service systems. Since these other devices share many characteristics with EGMs the degrees could have many courses in common and increase the viability of the Slot Technology program.

Next Meeting. The attendees selected Tuesday 12 May for the next meeting and the topic as the review of Slot Principles I (ET 238B) course. The time of the meeting will be 3:30 – 5:00 PM in a class room in the Telecommunications Building on the Cheyenne campus.