

Summary of the 4 November meeting with the Slot Program Steering Committee

Dr. Spangler gave a welcome to the advisory committee. He stated that he believes that our programs are needed even though we are facing a significant budget problem, but we have to still move forward. He stated that we are the primary providers to come into this industry and he would like the Advisory Committees to tell us if what we are trying to accomplish is heading into the right direction.

In his slide presentation he showed the four points that our programs are focusing on:

- Current Industry Climate
- Next generation Needs
- Program Capacity to Reflect Industry
- Non Technical Requirements

He also discussed coordination of CSN's technical degrees with the Tech Prep program in some of the CCSD high schools and the problems CSN has with recruiting high school students into the Slot Technology program due to the age restrictions on casino jobs.

- One solution that the school is perusing is a new degree program that would closely match the Slot Technology program, but that focuses upon the repair and maintenance of Kiosks, ATMs, and related systems. The proposed new degree would closely parallel the new AAS Slot degree requirements.

Another topic was providing more business oriented courses, including the non technical subjects. In addition to training in technical subjects CSN's programs need to train the students in business communication. One initiative in that area is a new course, Communications 115 which focuses on write typical business communications, i.e., letters, e-mails, reports, etc.

Dr. Spangler's last item was the schools internship program. CSN would like to offer to our students, real world experiences through internships while introducing students to the field. We need to depend on each other from the academic side and the industry side. Input from industry is critical to improving the program.

Joe Miller presented our updates to the AAS degree and Certificate of Achievement, that become effective for new students starting with the Fall 2009 Semester. The new degree and certificate requirements can be seen at <http://www.slots.csn.edu>. Under the new degree gaming regulations related to slot machines will be covered in the second Slot Principles class. The new coverage will not only cover Nevada Gaming regulations, but ones from other jurisdictions. Some of the other changes to the degree and certificate add critical background on computers, networking and cabling that will be critical to the change to server based gaming.

An advisory committee member stated that he felt that we were not preparing our students to get the initial and gaming set ups. Miller mentioned that students get a demo in class and the advisory committee member replied that when they arrive to the floor they are not knowledgeable to get the perfect setting. He would like the students to actually do it. Mike Connolly suggested that our faculty should use externships with casinos to ensure we are properly preparing our students. Mike Connolly

continued stating that he wants to look into each course to see if we are covering the right materials and have the correct focus.

- Mike Connolly added the importance of field experience, setting internships so students run into real problems.
- Dr. Spangler stated he would like to create internships in the manufacturing side so students get hands on experience where students are interns. Furthermore, Dr. Spangler raised the question: "How can we apply internship into unionized casinos?"
- Joe Miller commented that the department will waive courses for the students who have an electronic background.

An industry advisor raised the question: "What is your final product?" The AAS degree was originally designed for slot technicians that wanted more knowledge about slot machines and those that wanted to become bench technicians.

Another industry advisor requested that the program keep the required coverage of English. He stated that there are some employees that cannot put a three word sentence together.

Joe Miller thanked the industry advisors for attending and the timing of the next meeting was discussed. The resulting consensus was that the meetings should be held quarterly and the next one should be in early Feb 2009 on a Tuesday. In addition, he requested to take a look at the degree requirements so it can be discussed next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.