

**SRJC Mechatronics Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, May 16, 2024 12-1:30pm, Zoom**

**Advisory Committee Members in attendance:**

Andy Hulse -- Viavi Solutions  
Tim Irizarry -- SMART Train, proxy for Mario Frias  
Tom McKenzie -- Joseph Phelps Vineyard  
Amanda Roybal -- formerly of La Tortilla Factory, now with Enlow & Associates  
Joe Seymour -- Consultant at Keysight

**Attendees:**

Kelli Butler -- Keysight Apprentice Program (ARC)  
Kim Kinahan -- SRJC Faculty: Work Experience + Internships  
MJ Papa -- SRJC Faculty + Mechatronics Program Coordinator  
Megan Rhodes -- SRJC Career Hub: Job Developer  
Rachel Smith -- SRJC Director: Workforce Programs and CTE Grants

Meeting called to order at 12:12pm. Five of five voting members were present, therefore a quorum was reached.

- 1) **Industry Updates:** Kelli stated Keysight had a slow period over past year with a hiring freeze. No guarantee of hiring post-apprenticeship but she's optimistic. Received approval to bring in a new ARC student though. Tim with SMART has an intern who has applied for permanent position, currently only able to have one intern at a time but has several entry-level labor positions open. Andy at Viavi is now in charge of recruiting young engineers; stated it's not a good time for Viavi but it's a good time to get retrained. Amanda did reverse recruiting as La Tortilla Factory was closing in February and March: most of her techs and mechanics placed with other local industry. She's happy to help the Mechatronics program with industry contacts. L3 moving to Rochester, Camelback moving out of area, etc.; there's a county-wide exodus of companies. Tom with Joseph Phelps Vineyard stated that the market is down and the wine industry suffering too. His employer is also in a hiring freeze; has a mechanic position ready to launch but probably won't be able to hire. Kim Kinahan can post internship opportunities on Handshake, seems like many students go directly through the instructors such as MJ.
- 2) **Certificate and Program Updates** from Coordinator: Enrollment is up -- all but two of ELEC's Fall 2024 classes are already closed with waitlists. ELEC 167 has 14 students enrolled already with only 18 spots available. Expecting 20+ certificate completions at the end of this semester. All Technician Level Certificates and AS (Industrial Maintenance, Mechatronics Technology, and Signal Tech) degrees are approved and active. Received a second Fanuc Industrial Robotic Arm from SpaceX which is great news as the robotics class is overfull. She's very optimistic of where the program is going, seeing students getting their certificates and AS degrees; MJ loves what she does.
- 3) MJ needs promotion assistance as many students have no idea SRJC has a Mech/ELEC program. She hasn't had a full time SLIA for two years, she teaches a full load of evening courses, preps and cleans up all lab activities, and only has Fridays for paperwork. However -- the SLIA hiring process for a full time lab position is finishing up! Two candidates will be forwarded we're hopeful the SLIA will be onboarded by mid- to late summer to get the labs ready.
- 4) **Mechatronics Open House proposal:** Would like to host an Open House September or October; invite the JC's Marketing+PR people & local industry, etc., to promote program. She's seeing the trend of lack of jobs

leading to more students enrolling in courses. The JC's Industrial trade & Technology Department recently hosted a career fair; MJ asked the committee if ELEC/MECH should consider something similar. Industry hiring is kind of stalled so maybe an Open House would be the way to go. Kim suggests an Employer Panel during Open House -- good for students to hear what's going on locally. Joe would like Keysight's apprentices to come talk too. Amanda suggests having alumni speak too. MJ agrees that they're a great promotion point. Kim also recommended bringing Oscar Guajardo to connect the local high school to the JC.

- 5) MJ would like to plan the Fall 2024 Advisory Committee meeting prior to the Open House. Would like an internet presence, social media posts and paper fliers, advertising materials, updated website, etc. Kim says CareerHub can help w/Employer Panel.
- 6) **Internship Opportunities with Industry:** Keysight has one position open to place someone in ARC Wave 5 as backfill. MJ asked how many more waves they'll have; Joe says eight was the goal but things may change. The ARC members are paid to take class AND complete their homework AND hold a concurrent paid internship at Keysight. Next wave will begin in January 2025. Hiring pools are huge: 40-60 applicants for six positions. One Wave 4 member stopped out of program due to a full time hiring then was promoted into a supervisory position.
- 7) **Fall 2024 meeting scheduled for Thursday Sept 19 and/or September 26:** <https://santarosa-edu.zoom.us/j/85317463420?pwd=7LuzoFsju5zbILGRKKI2At8cCU0BR3.1>  
Meeting ID: 853 1746 3420  
Passcode: 233982

Meeting adjourned at 1:09pm.

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(note to self -- contact Tara Hruby in ITT to find out how they arranged their job fair last month)