

February 19, 2019 Meeting Minutes
Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting

Meeting Attendees – Dr. Timothy Lucas – Developer of the Intermodal Freight Transportation courses, Keith Robbins – Florida Department of Transportation, Dr. Debbie Psihountas – Dean, School of Business and Technology, Dr. Jennifer Patterson – Chair, Department of Business and Accounting.

Purpose – Discuss and evaluate the relevancy of the Intermodal Freight Transportation College Credit Certificate

Keith Robbins from the Florida Department of Transportation discussed the types of transportation in the southwest Florida region. While it was agreed that there might be some demand for the current Intermodal Freight Transportation CCC in central Florida, the local demand is currently limited. The fact that the certificate (six, three credit courses) is not anchored to a degree was also viewed as an obstacle to sustaining attendance in the courses. Limitations for students to obtain Financial Aid for the certificate was also considered as an obstacle to recruitment. (The certificate program was previously supported by the ExCellIT grant). Given the financial limitations, the committee members agreed that it is doubtful that students seeking AS or BS degrees would consider registering for the additional 18 credit hours solely for the certificate.

Further discussions included the possibility to connect with the larger employers in the local area (Publix, Best Buy, Walmart, Aldi, some agricultural related possibilities etc.). It was determined that it would be unlikely that there would be a steady pool of potential new students to justify the courses on an ongoing basis. The titles of some of the courses such as Air, Rail, and Port Freight Operations and Introduction to Trucking Operations were also considered limiting towards the possible use in other degree programs currently offered within the School of Business.

The committee agreed that the realities of recruitment are unrealistic to continue to offer the Intermodal Freight Transportation CCC. The committee agreed that further investigation into the operation management specialization for the 2 or 4 year degree or the possible development of a new 2 or 4 year degree focused on the Operations/Logistics/Supply Chain area of specialization would be more beneficial towards addressing the current and projected future needs of the workforce.