Meeting Minutes

Attendees:
Brian Briggs, Chair
Loretta Eggleston
Senator Klausmeier (Evan Richards)
Saundra Lamb
Bobby Patton
Christine Ross
Scott Simmons
Dr. Willie E. May

Company
TIC Gums
Boilermakers Local S 50
Maryland General Assembly
Semforex
Patton Electronics
Maryland Chamber of Commerce
McCormick & Company
Morgan State University

Ex-Officio Members:
Kelly Schulz
Secretary, Department of Commerce

Notable Guest(s)

Guest Speakers

Commerce Staff:
Todd Sabin
I. Call to Order

At 2:11 p.m. Chairman Brian Briggs called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests.

II. Review and Approval of June 21, 2019 Minutes

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the June 21, 2019 MMAB meeting were approved.

III. Chairman’s Updates

The Chairman yielded openings remarks to host, Dr. Willie May. Dr. May welcomed the Board and provided an update on Morgan State University and the HBCUs participation in an event connecting the HBCUs with the Manufacturing USA institutes to see how they may collaborate.

IV. Maryland Manufacturing Update

Todd Sabin reviewed recent “wins” and updates for the state in the manufacturing industry. He then provided updates on the status of the offshore wind industry. Namely, one of Maryland’s developers, Orsted, announced their turbine supplier with be GE.

V. Old Business

A. Image of Manufacturing Initiative Update

Scott Simmons opened by discussing McCormick is continuing to work with schools that instruct technical skills. Christine Ross discussed the Chamber’s work with CCBC and BCPS in working with P-Tech schools in establishing an advanced manufacturing curriculum. Loretta Eggleston, with Scott Simmons in agreement, questioned why 18 year olds cannot be on the floor of a manufacturing company. A couple of members commented that it is due to insurance company regulations.

B. Small Manufacturing Business Support Initiative

Saundra Lamb led the discussion by stating the pilot survey should be postponed until the Board can see if will get the responses needed to make it worthwhile, as well as see if this can be part of the Manufacturing Policy Academy.

C. Manufacturing Co-Ops in Maryland

Bobby Patton opened with the MHEC rules capping bachelor degree hours at 120 credits for state schools, but private schools are not capped. He suggested a 5-6 year Master’s program. Dr. May
asked if the MMAB can make a recommendation to the Governor to accommodate these rules. Mr. Patton suggested using another state’s Co-Op program, show how it won’t comply with the current rules, and ask (the state) for an exception. Chairman Briggs will take this to Secretary Schulz to advance the conversation of a Co-Op program in Maryland.

VI. New Business

A. Chamber Foundation Externship Program

Christine Ross reviewed the three externships that were held over the summer at Volvo, Stanley Black & Decker, and Turoid Corporation. They were all successful with great partnerships between private companies and the Chamber in splitting the cost of the $6,500 teacher stipend. Each teacher brought back three lesson plans to teach their students about manufacturing and their experience in the program. Ms. Ross is now working with Workforce Development Boards to gain more support, and working on keeping the program going and get teachers to want to compete for these externships. A question was raised on how to combining the P-Tech program and apprentices. She suggested adding apprenticeships on after the P-Tech program.

B. Manufacturing Policy Academy

Todd Sabin informed the Board that the state was accepted into the Manufacturing Policy Academy sponsored by NIST. The Core and Home Team members, as well as the initial goals were reviewed. Mr. Patton asked if there were metrics in place to encourage in-state procurement as it relates to one of the program goals. Ms. Ross stated the “Buy Michigan” program was strong. Mr. Sabin went on to inform the Board of the Maryland Manufacturing Directory, but it is not utilized. Ms. Eggleston suggested we promote the directory at public events.

VII. Discussion of Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Chairman Briggs will speak with Secretary Schulz about the Co-Op program. Mr. Patton suggested a discussion on tech transfer. Ms. Lamb wanted to know what the protocol is for prioritizing MMAB initiatives.

VIII. Adjournment of MMAB Business Meeting

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m. by Chairman Briggs. Board members and guests were then offered a tour of Morgan State University’s cyber department.