



DRAF Advisory Board Meeting Minutes May 3, 2026

Drafting Technology Program Advisory Board Members

Joe Nobles, Industrial Designer, Design Director, Tournesol Siteworks

Bob Sherens, Dean of Architecture Kent State, Emeritus

Nickolas Smith, CADD Layout Design Drafter A, Northrup-Grumman, Santa Clara, CA

Will Whitted, Industrial Designer / Engineer, Google, Retired

Michael Toschi, Michael Toschi International ~Hand-made Italian Shoes & Clothes

Lilya Vorobey, Professor, Drafting Technology, CSM

Diana Bennett, Professor, Digital Media - DGME, CSM

Heidi Diamond, Dean of Business & Tech, CSM, Emeritus, and Business Faculty, West Valley College

Agenda / Minutes

Meeting began at 2:00 pm

Location: The Wild Rover, Redwood City, CA

- Introductions
- Update on Drafting Program provided by Lilya Vorobey
Classes in the Drafting Technologies program are offered in an asynchronous, online format and classes are well enrolled.
Students continue to come from a similar demographic to the enrollments of prior years.
Students range from high-school students to retired engineers, architects, and designers.
Despite the claims that attrition rates are higher in online classes, the attrition rates tend to be similar to the rates in face-to-face classes.



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Open Conversation – Discussion

How is AI impacting the way students learn?

The discussion about AI addressed how students are not necessarily reading and absorbing content as they should. Even with examples and clear descriptions of how to complete assignments, some students are not doing their own work and are instead using AI for their assignments. A proposed solution for this challenge involves asking students to acknowledge the AI sources they use to enhance their assignments.

Drafting assignments are reliant on the software. AI has not actually permeated the making of models, although Autodesk (Revit and Autocad) have been considering implementing AI use in the software.

What do current students in the DRAF program hope to gain from their classes?

Students are seeking a basic knowledge of drafting skills and software knowledge in order to obtain gainful employment in industry. Students appreciate basic hands-on assignments they can take with them into their workplace applications. Students are also looking for industry connections so they can obtain entry level positions.

Students and the Advisory Committee is not in agreement of the program being discontinued since drafting is a language used extensively in Architecture, Automotive Design, Mechanical Design, Engineering, Construction Trades, and any other trade that requires a drawing.

What are the new software applications that the DRAF program should offer so students can be competitive in the current job market?

Employers would like to hire candidates who are proficient in AutoCAD, Revit, and Solidworks. CSM needs to support the purchase of the Solidworks software licenses in order to ensure that students have access to learning it. We have saved the college thousands of dollars by offering online classes that do not require in person CAD labs.

Which skill sets do employers look for in CAD drafters?

- Basic knowledge of drafting skills and a desire to continue in a drafting career.
- The ability to initiate and successfully complete tasks in a reasonable timeframe.
- The knowledge of broad interests that can be applied to drafting tasks.
- Hand sketching skills that can be used for immediate ideations of a project for the client.
- Critical thinking skills that involve conceptualizing and processing complex information with a goal of task completion.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:30 pm