Attendees: Sean Blechschmidt, Proto-Design, Inc. (Visiport)
John Cain, Boeing/IAM Joint Programs
Tom Stephenson, Royell Manufacturing
Joe Shipp, Arrow Machining
Tom Springsteen, Provail
Berta Lloyd, Instructional Dean Prof/Tech Programs
Mark Phillips, Center for Manufacturing Excellence
Keith Smith, CNC Machinist Instructor

1. Nov. 28, 2007 Meeting Notes (Keith Smith). The notes from the Nov. 28, 2007 advisory committee meeting were reviewed and approved.

2. NIMS Certification Progress Report & Committee Input (Keith Smith). Keith provided background information on NIMS (National Institute for Metalworking Skills). It publishes standards and competency evaluation materials for the metalworking field – similar to ASE in the automotive field - and is much better known in other parts of the country. Shoreline's program, along with the machining programs at Lake Washington and Bates, is working towards NIMS Machining Level I accreditation.

One accomplishment to date has been to bring the machine shop up to OSHA safety standards, which was done by inviting L&I to do a courtesy audit. Numerous improvements have been made as a result, including installation of chuck guards on the shops lathes. Other progress towards accreditation is the formation of a regional MET-TEC committee to evaluate parts that are produced as part of the certification testing process in the future. Sean mentioned that several members of the Puget Sound Chapter of NTMA have volunteered to be part of the MET-TEC committee and that additional members were being sought from advisory committees. John Cain volunteered to serve as a MET-TEC member, and Tom Stephenson offered to talk to people at his company about possibly participating.

The NIMS accreditation process is quite thorough. Other areas that Keith will be working on include getting certified himself, rounding out the documentation of the program’s curriculum, and developing information about area metalworking companies.

3. MFG 120 Course Updates (Keith Smith). Several major changes have been made regarding the MFG 120 course and the entire curriculum. One of these has been to redesign parts of the curriculum to simulate a metal parts factory. Students receive job paperwork and are responsible for using that information to produce parts. The idea for this change came from a committee member’s comment about needing to train students to look for and pay attention to the details associated
with a job. So far the innovation is working well, with students approaching their “jobs” seriously and discovering, sometimes through mistakes, the need to be attentive to all aspects of the work. Committee members reviewed the paperwork for one job and made several suggestions to make the materials even more realistic.

Another recent change in the program has been to make use of the state’s IBEST program. Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training funds students with basic skills deficiencies, and seeks to integrate education in those areas with specific technical training. IBEST funding has enabled additional students to enroll and has supported a part-time second instructor who works with students on math, language, and other basic skills areas.

4. Center of Excellence to Close (Mark Phillips). The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges announced in April that the Center for Manufacturing Excellence based at Shoreline will not be funded after June 30. The reason for the closing appears to be the SBCTC’s disagreement with the CME’s major focus on metal machining, de-emphasizing other areas of manufacturing. Another possible reason that has been given is the increasing difficulty the state is having funding all 12 centers of excellence at levels that allow them to be effective.

5. End of Quarter Open House (Keith Smith). The SCC Machinist program will have an Open House on Monday June 9th to mark the end of Spring Quarter. Students’ family members are invited to attend, as well as members of the advisory committee, who are encouraged to bring information about their companies and their hiring needs. Students will “show off” some of the work they have done in the program, including the Stirling engines they have produced. Refreshments will be served.

6. New Program Acquisition (Keith Smith). The program has purchased a new endmill sharpener. This tool will help with periodic maintenance of shop machines, but will also allow students to learn about tool geometry through direct application.

7. Questions. Berta Lloyd asked the company reps present to comment on their need to hire people like the Machinist program graduates. Several companies indicated they were looking for skilled employees. A discussion ensued about the difference in qualification between someone who had completed a machining certificate or degree program and those who had received more informal training from other sources. The program grads can command a higher starting salary, and usually advance to more responsible work much faster.

8. Next Committee Meeting. The committee will meet next in the fall – date TBD. The consensus of the group was that, with enough advance notice, 8:00 is as good a time as any for committee meetings.