

TECHNICAL EDUCATION DIVISION

Clothing and Textiles- Fashion Design Advisory Committee  
March 11, 2011 6:00-8:00 p.m. APL 108

MINUTES

Present:

**Melissa Ramiro**-AVC

**Nayma Karamanos**-AVC/Kuki's Bridal

**Ruth Cooper**-AVC/EFYI

**Rudy Ramiro**-CA Correctional Inst.

**Lari Mora**-Prior student/Saks 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.

**Paula Hollis**-That's Us Fashion Shows Unlimited

**Gabriel Devine**-Devine Works Limited

**Alissa Christensen**-Devine Works Limited

Meeting opened at 6:20 p.m.

Introductions

Each member introduced him/herself and gave a brief summary on their position, company, and interest in the committee.

Brief Program Review/ Course Updates

Each member was given the "new and improved" tentative program flier. Brief histories of the program, as well as recent course updates were covered. A brief explanation of each course led into a discussion of the career paths that have been established. Three career paths are: 1. The traditional home sewer looking to improve on his/her own skills. 2. The seamstress that will take his/her skills to open a boutique/alterations/dressmaker shop, or who want to further themselves in retail, fashion promotion, or costuming. 3. The "go-getter" who will further his/her education or follow into the industry at various levels and positions. A brief tour of the classroom, equipment, and textbooks/supplies was given to familiarize each member with what's available within the classroom.

Roundtable Discussion on Program/Curriculum Review, Suggestions, and/or Recommendations

Each member was asked (relating to his/her position) to comment on the following three questions:

1. What minimal qualifications would an entry-level employee need to possess if they were hired with your company?
2. Which (revised) courses seem to be the best for qualifying a potential employee?
3. What recommendations would you make on either equipment or curriculum to best prepare an employee for employment with your company?

**Paula**(Fashion Show Producer)- Employee must know the basics of Fashion Marketing. Must have attention for detail. Must be able to identify the construction of a well-made garment, with fine attention to accurate stitching, fit, and style. Must have personal coordination of dress. (i.e. knowledge of what you're wearing and the image you are portraying, first impressions). Must know color theory, fabrics/textiles, accessories, hair, make-up, the total package for the particular image.

**Lari**(Former student/Visual Mgr./Sales Rep)- Knowledge of marketing is key. The ability to work on and complete multiple projects, while meeting deadlines is a must. Ideal candidates should have knowledge and experience on industrial machinery/equipment to be better prepared for fashion industry. If you are working towards employment in fashion design/samplemaking/ or overseas production, you must be able to use industrial sewing machines/equipment.

**Nayma**(Custom Dressmaker/Seamstress/Alterations/Store Owner) Absolutely must know basic construction of garments. Must have a good eye for attention to detail. Good customer service. Employee should have knowledge of measuring, garment construction, and alterations in order to make accurate recommendations to customer.

**Gabriel**(CEO/owner of Independent Film Co.) and **Alissa**(CMO/Arts Administrator of Independent Film Co.)- Knowledge of marketing. Versatility. Ability to research/ create/ and fit costumes quickly and effectively. Attention to detail on construction. The costumes must have function and photogenic qualities. Employee must know alterations to be able to deconstruct/reconstruct garments in a time-sensitive matter (so as not to interfere with production scheduling). Costumers must know color/line/design/function, and the ability and knowledge to complete research and development for accuracy in period costumes. There should be an emphasis on "History of Costume" (possibly an additional course to offer).

**Ruth**(Freelance Patternmaker/CAD Instructor)- There should be an advanced patternmaking course offered covering drafting, construction, and production patternmaking. Must have knowledge of industrial methods to create production patterns/markers.

**Rudy**(Industrial Manager-Fabric Product Production)- Employee must be familiar and knowledgeable with an industrial setting. Employee must have experience on a CAD system for precision pattern/marker making productivity. Most, if not all, manufacturers have CAD systems, thus allowing for more standardization and the ability to manufacture overseas. Some CAD systems allow you to draft, construct, and virtually model your design before it is manufactured. Employee must know industrial machines, including some of the basic machines (single needle/cover stitch/overlock). The ability to be comfortable with the speed and repetition of production. Should have knowledge of manufacturing operations set-up. There should be an emphasis on order-of-operation (construction steps) starting with basic construction.

Discussion was made on whether to switch to all industrial machines as most schools and design rooms have. Emphasis was places on the three "paths", thus allowing students to experience both home sewing and industrial is necessary.

Alissa raised the question of internships, which brought on a lively discussion. Currently, we do not offer internships, however most design schools do. Internships allow the student to gain work experience for little to no pay in local fashion establishments. Recommendation was made to offer Internships in the last semester of the students' certificate/degree program. There was also reference made to LA area design schools/colleges that have resource centers that offer such employment, and the need for that at AVC. There was unanimous agreement of Fashion Internships. The following (represented) businesses have offered Internships for AVC students:

1. That's Us, Fashion Show's Unlimited
2. Saks 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.
3. Devine Works Unlimited
4. Prison Industry Authority (student internships)

Paula Hollis with That's Us, Fashion Shows Unlimited is working with current and past AVC students on a fashion show to celebrate Lancaster's Mardi Gras Celebration. The show will take place on March 26, 2011 on the "new and improved" Lancaster Blvd.

Next meeting will be on Saturday April 16, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. in APL 108.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.