MINUTES

Agribusiness Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date | time 9/12/2018 8:00 AM | Meeting called to order by Steve Durin at 8:05 AM Room A-1228

# In Attendance

*Members Present:*

Kevin Herrmann— Herrmann Farms

Justin Wassmann—Conserve FS

Erik Hill—Nutrian

Rob Baumann— Nutrian

Brent Hueber — Compeer Financial

Jamie Willrett- Willrett Farms

*KC Members Present:*

Steve Durin — Director-Aviation/DPT Assistant Professor, KC

Bette Chilton —Executive Dean of Career and Technical Education, KC

Dave Dammon —Associate Dean-Career Technologies, KC

Janet Gallagher —Assistant Professor-Horticulture, KC

Joanne Kantner— Vice President of Instruction, KC

Audra Boehne – Animal Science Instructor, KC

Katherine Yunek — H/E Student Worker, Recorder, KC

# Welcome and Introductions

Steven thanks everyone for their attendance. He explains how this is a restart on the program, there is a lot of excitement and interest from students, and this is a great time to be in Agriculture.

Steve adds that the program has a powerful line up of instructors. It is hard to find adjuncts for Horticulture, but we managed to find amazing adjuncts.

# Updates on Program — Steve Durin

Durin explains that in 2005, enrollment dropped drastically because not many courses were offered.

He then explains how the program offers many more courses, and almost all of them are transferrable.

Joanne explains all that goes in to building a new program.

 🡪Labor demand

 🡪Certain titles offered for students, Ag or Finance Ag

 🡪There is a building year to figure out where to start

 🡪The process of getting approval from higher positions as well as Ag student associations

 🡪Knowing whether a student is an AAS/Ag transfer or short-term certificate

Steve then chimed in that most students unsure of what path to take usually start with a certificate to help decide a

 career path. He then added that internships are huge part of the program as well as getting the students

 learning the newest technology. Most students are already working when getting their certificates.

Steve talks of state approval in June. Fall classes were all set up, and enrollment is up this year.

 Precision Ag had 5 students

 One of Janet’s labs had 23 students. Had such a large student count that they had to split it to two labs.

 Animal Science had 14 students.

All really great numbers.

 Spring line up:

 Crop Science

 Integrated Ag

Durin discuss IFarm and how they allowed students to tour their facility as well as donating a software program

 ($14,000).

Nutrient also donated their program called, Echelon.

Steve asks if members would be willing to share some data for students’ labs.

# Discussion on Workplace Trends

Steve talks about the Ag mechanics class as well as the preventable maintenance course. He asks members if those courses are valuable. Both including learning, chain work, lubricants, belts, and basic maintenance.

 Justin Wassmann said they are both very important courses.

Kevin Herrmann said they are great classes that keep the students involved and interested.

Steve spoke of the transferrable courses, and how they do have IAI numbers to show where they transfer to.

Steve went on to talk about how different regions in Iliinois focus on different areas or Ag depending on what their community needs. Some areas focus on cattle while others focus on grain, it all depends on the community.

For students going for a certificate, classes are normally a 12 week format, 2 days a week, all day. Most students have part-time or full-time jobs. This allows them to go to class and also work.

# Internship Opportunities

Steve explains how roughly 95% of internships are successful, and often lead to part-time jobs and even full-time jobs after graduation.

Joanne spoke of the state grant that will reimburse up 50% of internship cost.

Bette Chilton brought up the event, Interview Day. A day set aside to allow students to meet with employers and possibly earn an internship/job position. Helps students network. All members present at the meeting were added to the invite list.

Janet added that Interview Day was scheduled for March 6th, 2019. Employers invited are given a feedback sheet to help students improve themselves. The spring Advisory Committee Meeting is usually that same day.

Rob Baumann explained that there is a small number of employees in the career and interview day is a great event.

# Other

The program will soon have access to 2 acres on school grounds to use in labs. They also received a drone. The

 program has also received some space in the greenhouse.

Steve wants to have a lot of hands on labs for the students.

Rob Baumann asked if Steve had talked to Monsanto/Bear about touring their facility.

Kevin Herrmann adds that talking to the students is going to be the programs biggest asset.

Steve asked if there were any improvements that could be made.

Rob Baumann said the students’ soft skills could be improved.

Jimmy said their face-to-face communication. As well as time management, and common courtesy.

Steve mentioned the dining etiquette event on March 5th, 2019.

Many of the members spoke of the idea of many workers nowadays not being good with calling off and showing up

 to work.

Steve mentioned that in the last three weeks of class he has had a 100% attendance rate. Most of his students are

 from family farms were raised with that mindset of being a hard worker.

# Next Meeting