



Horticulture

Meeting Date: October 30, 2023

Time: 3:00pm

External Participants: 6

Joshua Pepping – Production Supervisor - Midwest Groundcovers

Matt Ewert – Associate Landscape Architect - Western DuPage Landscaping, Inc.

Chris Bausman – General Manager - Crimson Valley Landscaping

Kelsey Minalga – Product Manager - Ball Horticultural Company

Larry Hubbard – Owner - Pepper Creek

Vicki Hubbard – Owner - Pepper Creek

Internal Participants: 7

Chase Budziak – Dean of Instruction

Jescelynn Gibbons – Associate Dean of Instruction

Janet Gallagher – Horticulture Faculty

Sean Walters- Horticulture/Agriculture/Biology Faculty

Catherine Marsh – Adjunct Horticulture Faculty

Kimberly Rotella – Greenhouse Specialist

Catherine Macias – Minutes

I. Program Update

- a. Fall 2023 Enrollment
 - College enrollment up 9.4% since last fall
 - Horticulture enrollment down 96 credit hours (-25.5%) since last fall
- b. Program Faculty & Staffing
 - Dr. Sean Walters joined Kishwaukee as a new full-time faculty member; Dr. Walters will serve in the Agriculture, Biology, and Horticulture departments
 - Jescelynn Gibbons joined Kishwaukee as the new Associate Dean of Business and Technical Education
- c. Student News (Budziak and Gallagher)
 - Horticulture student, Abby D'Agostin, took 1st place for flowers to wear in a wedding category at the American Institute of Floral Designers (AIFD) 2023 Symposium Held during the summer
 - Horticulture students designed two pieces for the Art in Bloom event at the Rockford Art Museum
 - The Horticulture department provided table décor for the DeKalb County Economic Development Celebration
 - The Horticulture Department provided décor when members of the Illinois Community College Trustees visited campus

- Dr. Sean Walters has taken students to visit Syngenta Seeds R&D Innovation Center in Malta, Unilock in Aurora, and Bayer Agricultural Service in Waterman
- Most students enrolled in the Horticulture program are full-time
- d. Facilities, Equipment, and Supplies (Rotella)
 - A new storage building was recently added for Horticulture and Agriculture supplies
 - The Foundation grant provided a needle seeder for the Horticulture department
 - The Compeer grant provided punch and grow, benching, and flat filler equipment
 - Budziak states the greenhouse plants are growing properly
 - Budziak thanks Larry Hubbard for trouble shooting and diagnosing the issues from Spring 2023
 - Committee compliments the newly renovated Head House
 - A request for a new greenhouse has been submitted for a state-funded project
- e. Upcoming Events
 - Floral class will be providing décor for the Fall 2023 Kishwaukee Gala on campus and the Ellwood House Museum in DeKalb
 - April 2024, local FFA chapters will be on campus
 - Poinsettias and winter crop sale in December
 - Spring 2024 plant sale

II. Employer Feedback & Discussion

- a. Industry Update
 - Sales have been up; recent graduates have demonstrated more passion and interest in the field of Horticulture
 - Middle management positions are needed; businesses are interested in interns and looking to hire for numerous positions
 - Kishwaukee college Horticulture program is broad, providing a foundation underneath a variety of different segways, with hands-on training compared to a four year college
 - Inflation and the weather have affected business throughout the year
 - Focusing on improving and investing in our equipment and our employees
- b. Spring 2024 Interview Day Planning/Feedback
 - Open House for all departments
 - Different timeslots (e.g.: students who need it for course requirements, students seeking interview practice, students from all career fields who are job-seeking, etc.)
 - Opens students and employers to all positions
 - Employers can market for open positions they need
 - Follow-up date with information on event will be sent to the committee
- c. Internships
 - Committee agreed that 300 internship hours is enough time for the students to complete. Students have enough time on a job to know if they would like to continue that specific pathway in Horticulture. Employers have time to get to know their interns and decide if they are a good fit to hire on after internship is

complete.

d. Employment Opportunities

- Instructors advocate for employers for multiple positions within companies
- Career Service department posts all job opportunities from employers for students to view