

AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COUNCIL

November 8, 2019

Copper Penny Room

11:30am

ATTENDANCE

Dr. Howard Brown, Illini FS; Terri Cummings, DACC; Matt Hoose, Prospect Bank; Jonathan Jett, Vermilion County Works; Dave Kietzmann, DACC; Brandy Marron, Isela Rangel, DACC; DACC; Larry Tracy, Precision Agronomics; Mynda Tracy, 4-H Extension; Kerry Wienke, Vermilion County Farm Bureau

REPORTS

There were no reports at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Curriculum/Program

The agriculture program is going through some much needed updates. The new Computing Applications in Agriculture was offered for the Fall 2019 semester. Four new courses have been approved for future offering: Intro to Ag Marketing, Intro to Precision Ag, Intro to UAS Technology, and Ag Safety. All of these courses will go into the new proposed Precision Agriculture AAS Degree. This is a non-transfer degree which collaborates with other programs in the technology field including electronics, welding, and manufacturing. This degree strives to offer students skills relevant to their use on the farm. Eliminating the Grain Handling course was discussed and determined that the material in that course could be covered under Safety. Other possible courses that could be developed are Intro to Biotechnology/Hereditry, Introductory Bioinformatics, and Intro to Ag Ed. International Ag Seminar was mentioned and Brandy would like this to be a class trip so students can experience Ag in other parts of the country or possibly the world.

Mynda Tracy asked about stackable credentials and there was conversation about the different tests and credentials that could be considered such as: Drone 107 Test, Pesticide Exam Applicator, and OSHA. Dave brought out the push to create a four course sequence with a credential (certificate) at the end of the sequence for the high school, College Express classes.

As part of the new curriculum changes Brandy asked the committee for feedback on purchasing Ag Leader Educational Software. This purchase would be around \$6,000. There were no objections to this purchase and the committee was very favorable as to the efficacy of using this software in the classroom.

Brandy and the college is also working on a new grant to purchase another drone.

PAS

Brandy would like to morph the current Ag Club at DACC into a chapter of Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization or PAS. This would

allow our students to compete in the local exams. Currently only Parkland holds these competitions and they create the exams. If our students compete and win, they have a chance to participate at the national level. This would be a great recruiting tool and would have a monthly activity. Students do not have to be in Ag to join the PAS.

Ag Day

There was some debate about the 2020 Ag Day in its current form. The committee bounced around ideas about increasing the price, offering it to a smaller audience, turning it into a mental health event, and making it more into a recruiting tool. It was determined that we could hold the event sooner like February/March as a lunch (with increased price), with breakout sessions for the high school students. Then the Ag partners would like to see a Mental Health Awareness event for Ag, with buy-in from FFA advisors that would include speakers. This event could also include a showing of Silo Farm, if we could get enough corporate sponsors, as the rights run about \$2500 for the movie. One of these events could also include a high school competition with drones, career breakouts, and lunch.

Internships

There is a call for internships for Ag students. These can be held either summer or through the school year. Businesses mentioned for these students include WITY, 4-H interns, and Precision Agromonics (Larry).

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

A question was posed about INFO 245 Employment Seminar, what does that course include. The college could add essential employability skills to this course or develop a new course for EES. The industry partners expressed interest in being invited to speak to classes on campus about the careers available in their field of expertise.

Brandy shared the flyer she developed for Ag with the partners and closed the meeting.

DATE of NEXT MEETING

Fall 2020

MINUTES SUBMITTED by:

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa J. Osborne

Lisa J. Osborne
Administrative Assistant
Business and Technology