

Agriculture Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 27, 2016- MMC300

Invited:

Frank Butler
Doug Kirk
Tom McClamrock
Ted Olson
Tim Thornsborough
Jim Weston

Present:

Kathy Sturgeon
Craig Potter
Frank Butler
Ted Olson
Tom McClamrock
Tim Thornsborough

Called the meeting to order:

Meeting was call to order by Craig Potter at 2:32 pm. Mr. Potter introduced members and guests.

Agenda Item 1: Enrollment Data

Craig reported:

9 college students/5 college express

Ag mech is transfer

Ag pesticide non-transfer, only elective - hours towards degree

Advisory employee needs

- 2 year plus experience or 6 years combination (CCA) no incentive...no raise only pay for program.
- Commercial pesticide license
- Rt- registered technician, Category 1, Category 15
- Class B non CDL/AG CDL

Agenda Item 2: Program Information Sheets

Program sheets were shared with advisory board- agreed that curriculum is solid and no change is needed.

Agenda Item 3: Online Agriculture Courses

Was not discussed

Agenda Item 4: Sustainable Agriculture Curriculum

Discussion regarding sustainable vs organic. Question about creating a sustainable course outside of Ag. There is a push for "organic." Just because it isn't sprayed doesn't mean it's organic...check the fertilizer used.

Instead move toward food science including organic foods as a niche market- could attract students in Nutrition?

Discussed without conclusion differences between GMO, organic, non-organic, etc.

IU-Ag and the environment

Focus to educate 18-21 years to create an educated opinion

What other degrees or certificates would be a good option?

Struggle to find a good spray operators. ---create a class to teach/train? Hand a book and test online in Indiana /or day course in Purdue

Also lots of opportunities Ag finance, Ag insurance, food inspection, food industry, etc.

Agenda Item 5: Discussion of Ag Club equipment for land lab use

Grant funded (\$25,000) for tractor, rotor tiller was presented

Agenda Item 6: Future Internship Programs

SOE begins 1/2 week of April (Spring semester)---take business course online w/ SOE in spring

Craig: We don't have a fall course but could.

Comment: Very difficult to do homework and have SOE...long hours, less motivation

Dual enrollment option? Business courses and English during high school---and have one online course during SOE.

Agenda Item 7: Career Outlook from Advisory Members

Was not discussed

Agenda Item 8: Others Items from the Floor

- Update Ag brochure Josh Thornsborough is no longer with Illini FS. Will interview Tim McClamroch and Ted Olson for future editions.
- Add U of I, Illinois State, Southern Illinois partnerships
- Add more Ag to Ag day - maybe move to civic center
- Hands on Ag equipment
- Job fair/transfer day for Ag programs only
- Making students plant seeds in 11 acres

Agenda Item 9: Date of next meeting

January/ February works best

Meeting was adjourned:

Time: 4:10 pm