

Agricultural Sciences Advisory Committee

April 29, 2019; 11:30 AM

Wausau Campus - Room E101

Facilitator: Darren Ackley

Recorder: Bobbi Lee

Attendees

Industry Members

- Chad Glaze, President/Owner, Vine Vest North, Inc.—Advisory Chair
- Ed Sabey, Wholesale Acct Mgr/HR, ProVision Partners
- Josh Schmidt, Outreach & Solutions Adv, AgSource Dairy
- Kevin Sommer, Equipment Dealership Owner, Service Motor Company
- Tom Zorzin, Regional Manager, Service Motor Company
- Kristin Matthias, HR Manager, Service Motor Company
- Annie Falkowski, Senior Accountability Officer, PAW Health Network
- Hans Breitenmoser, Owner, Breitenmoser Family Farm
- Sly Krautkramer, Chief Operating Officer, Swiderski Equipment
- Pat Socha, Farm Owner
- Steve Boehm, Sales Manager, Reisterer & Schnell
- Joe Rudolph, President, Merrill Equipment Company

NTC Staff:

- Bobbi Lee, Assistant
- Dr. Darren Ackley, Vice President of Learning
- Katie VanDerGeest, School of Agricultural Sciences Development Manager
- Charl VanDerNest, Instructor
- Steve Krueger, Instructor
- Don Radtke, Farm Operations Manager
- Sarah Steger, Instructor
- Roy Hardy, Instructor
- Dr. Brad Gast, Dean, Business & Industry and Continuing Education

Other

- RT Hartson, NTC student
- Adam Liegel, NTC student
- Bri Jankowski, NTC student
- Tori Hagman, NTC student

Agenda Item 1: Welcome & Introductions

Presenter: Chad Glaze

Discussion:

- Chad Glaze, Chair of the Agricultural Sciences Advisory Committee, welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Action(s):

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Person(s) Responsible:

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Due Date(s):

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Agenda Item 2: Recap/Update/Highlights from Last Meeting 12.6.18

Presenter: Chad Glaze

Discussion

- Chad highlighted the minutes from the last meeting and asked if there were any changes or questions. No comments or changes.

Action(s):

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Person(s) Responsible:

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Due Date(s):

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Agenda Item 3: College-Wide Initiatives

Presenter: Darren Ackley

Discussion:

- New programs being explored and starting at NTC include; Salon & Spa, Electronic Power and Distribution Program (EPDP) and Gas/Utility Program. Currently the EPDP and Gas/Utility programs are being held at the farm, so the students have room to put up poles and bury cables/lines. The cold storage shed is being remodeled to house the two programs.
- The Marathon County June Dairy Breakfast will be held at the Northcentral Technical College Agriculture Center for Excellence on June 2, 2019.
- NTC was recognized as one of the top training colleges in North America by the Learning Resources Network (LERN). NTC is one of seven colleges out of 6,000 in North America to receive this recognition for their work in helping companies achieve their goals through customized training solutions, technical assistance and consulting. NTC serves over 900 businesses and 10,000 professionals annually in this capacity.

Action(s):

- N/A

Person(s) Responsible:

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Due Date(s):

Agenda Item 4: Instructional Area/Program

Presenter: NTC Faculty and Committee

Discussion:

A. Program Information

- Student Club/Program Activities

Katie had a power point presentation for the committee detailing the program events and student club activities that have been accomplished this spring. She was joined by four PAS students, Adam Liegel, RT Hartson, Bri Jankowski and Tori Hagman. Katie went through the power point and Bri, President of the PAS club and Tori, Secretary of the PAS club, went over the PAS club's trip to the State competition. This year NTC had the biggest group at the competition and they are also the biggest club in the state. NTC had numerous 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers at State. Student Adam Liegel was elected State Vice President of PAS. PAS also had 17 students go to the National competition in Loveland, CO in March. NTC had 6 students place in the top 5 (including one 1st place) and 2 more students place in the top 10. Adam Liegel was also elected a National PAS Vice-President and will be helping plan next year's National competition in Minneapolis. Darren mentioned that the PAS is by far the most active club at NTC.

Some of the events that Agriculture students took part in over the spring were Willow Springs sled dog races, AGCO training, fistula cow surgery and Diversity Day TED talk with Temple Grandin video. The farm will hold another Dual Credit day on May 7th and Sunday, June 2nd will be Marathon County June Dairy Breakfast. The farm will also be involved in the overnight Presidential Leadership Involvement camp this summer along with other summer school career camps.

- **Soil Health Partnership**

There was a Soil Health Partnership conference held in St. Louis in January and Don Radtke and two students, Adam Liegel and RT Hartson, attended. The students found it nice to be able to talk to other farmers from across the nation to see how they farm in totally different conditions than we have here in north central Wisconsin. Don explained that through the C2A3 grant we are planting

cover crops and researching their benefits and difficulties. Don reported that soil samples were taken May 12th and sent to Cornell and Texas for analysis and to be tested for organisms. Last year at our Field Day they did a soil pit examination and could see the difference between the cover crop soil, which was like a sponge, and the non-cover crop soil, which was like a brick.

- Program Enrollment/Graduates

Committee members were given a spreadsheet of applications for the Fall 2019 semester, a graduation outcomes brochure and a handout regarding number of students in the Spring 2019 semester (1st year, continuing and graduating) for all Ag programs. Katie explained to the committee that the continuing students on the spreadsheet are students that are attending school part-time or students that have more than one major. She also explained that Veterinary Science runs a spring semester start and a summer semester start every other year due to the large number of applications for this program. If students end up on a wait list when the program is full, they are encouraged to take their general education courses or to double major, as it opens up a lot of opportunities for students.

- Agriculture Equipment Technician Program

This program has struggled with enrollment the last few years and the decision was made to suspend the program. There is a demand for graduates in the industry, the issue is attracting students to the program. Darren relayed to the committee that we need to know exactly what the specific needs of industry are to make a more viable program. Darren stated it was heard from some in the industry that they would prefer to hire diesel technicians with only a little agriculture experience, but in talking to Vicky and Roy, that is not the impression they have. Would a Diesel Technician with a few Agriculture Equipment classes work for industry? Would an internal apprenticeship work, with a student working a set number of days and then coming to school they rest of the week? We have up to three years to decide on the path to take with this program.

Hans Breitenmoser commented that it seems like we have not put our finger on reason why enrollment is down. Are there fewer graduates out there or are young people just not interested in the industry? The trend seems to be that there are fewer young people entering the work force vs people leaving the work force. Darren expressed that NTC has put a lot of resources into high school recruitment and having career coaches go out into the high schools and now also have a middle school career coach, as it was indicated that a number of students already know what career path they want to be on by the time they reach high school. Darren stated that the number of graduating seniors in the NTC district is going down; however, NTC is receiving a higher percentage of the students that are graduating. Roy Hardy, Ag Equipment Instructor, has been getting out into the schools and talking to students more than has been done in the past as well.

Sly Krautkramer questioned the diesel idea. He related that ag equipment is different than it used to be and diesel is almost non-existent in the field. It is more hydraulic and diagnostic, more technology than diesel. Kristin Matthias added that students need to understand that it is more than just GPS for technology and they need to be on top of the newest technology as well. Roy cautioned about being too reliant on technology and that students need to understand the basic mechanical fundamentals as well.

Chad read an email he received from Joe Staszak, Ag instructor at Wausau East and West High Schools. Joe observed that he doesn't think students know anything about the Ag Equipment

program at NTC. He suggested that NTC focus on the automotive students at the high schools as many of those students are FFA students and he thinks there would be a connection to the Ag Equipment program. Joe also stated that Edgar and Everest high schools also have their Agriculture instructors teaching shop classes, which would be another opportunity for NTC as well. As an Ag Instructor, he expressed that he would not push students to the Ag Equipment program, as he doesn't know anything about it.

Roy stated he is teaching his students the business of being a technician. Not just how to do the technical work, but how to punch in and be on time, work orders, time management, time sensitivity on projects and building personal credentials. He thinks it is tougher to find the students that want to work 10-12 hour days that the industry requires and be on call 24/7 as well. This is an issue that the industry may have to change for. He also said it is difficult to recruit students when the career coaches don't understand enough about the Agriculture programs. Steve Boehm from Reisterer and Schnell mentioned that they are willing to sponsor students and to pay for their tuition and books if students then come and work for them. Other industry members agreed that they would be willing to sponsor apprenticeships. Having that laid out and getting that information into the high schools is something we need to emphasize. We can also highlight that the Ag Equipment program is only 9 months long. We are also trying to highlight the program during dual credit day, it might be an idea to have industry represented at dual credit day to highlight what kind of jobs are available after graduation and the sponsorships they are willing to give.

NTC would like to set up strategic planning meetings with industry to get together and find out their needs and come up with a viable plan for the Agriculture Equipment program this summer.

B. Curriculum/Assessment

- Student Success Initiatives

Committee members were given handouts on the new eight-week initiative, the part-time initiative and the new online student orientation. The focus with the 8 week initiative is student retention. National data shows that this initiative increases completion rates. Some of our Ag classes were unable to change to the shorter time frame, but most of them were changed and they are fitting in well. The students are able to take 2 or 3 classes every 8 weeks and have the ability to concentrate on fewer classes at one time. NTC also has a part-time initiative as we are trying to accommodate students that can only come to school part-time. Part-time is considered less than 12 credits per semester. The new online student orientation is a four hour online module to teach students how to be successful in school. The orientation includes tutorials for email, MyNTC, Canvas and Starfish, among other items.

- Updated Outcomes for Technical Skills Attainment

At the last committee meeting there were some changes recommend for a few of the TSA outcomes. Vicky updated the outcomes and committee members were given a handout with the changes highlighted. Everyone agreed with the changes made.

C. Continuing Education/Business & Industry

- Brad Gast, Dean of Business & Industry and Continuing Education, discussed the handout for Agricultural Continuing Education. Numbers went down slightly for 2018-2019, but that might be

due to Garden Visions being on an extremely cold day and we had lower turnout than usual. The Beekeeping Conference is now being looked at to be turned in to a series of classes. Canine Obedience and Psychology training is coming up starting May 16th.

<i>Action(s):</i>	<i>Person(s) Responsible:</i>	<i>Due Date(s):</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up meetings with industry to discuss Ag Equipment program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vicky Pietz, Bobbi Lee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

Agenda Item 5: Other Items

Presenter: All

Discussion:

- A.** What trends are you seeing in your Industry? What else could NTC provide to your business?

Annie Falkowski, PAW Health Network, explained that a lot of students that graduate from our animal programs seem to be focused on large animals and their handling skills with small animals seems to be pretty minimal. They are also unsure of medications for small animals. The Wausau community has a very large area of small animal practices and working with small animals needs to be more of a focus. A majority of the jobs are with vet assistant and this is working with small animals.

Hans commented that there seems to be a lot of specialization in education today. A lot of younger people are not as versatile as they would like them to be. Not sure how to get a more “well-rounded” person. Katie reported that is why we like to push dual majors, to make students more marketable and versatile. The question was raised if we need a class that focuses on a more general program. Darren explained that critical thinking and problem solving is something that we are working on as a college. Members stated that they are looking for good employees that are willing to try to do things that they might not know about.

- B.** Farm Update

Don informed the group that our 72x200 foot hoop house is now up. We are waiting for the floor to be finished so we can move all of the equipment inside. The barn roof collapsed March 3rd. No people or animals were hurt, but the Vector was down for about a month. It was restarted on April 1st. There is a steep learning curve with the Vector, but everyone is learning. The staff is looking at purchasing alfalfa this year instead of raising it, so the quality is more consistent. Also looking at putting soybeans in this year and changing some things up. There will be tours of the Vector on June 2nd with the June Dairy Breakfast.

<i>Action(s):</i>	<i>Person(s) Responsible:</i>	<i>Due Date(s):</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small animal handling skills discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vicky Pietz, Bobbi Lee, Vet Science faculty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next meeting

Agenda Item 6: Future Agenda Discussions/Next Meeting Date & Time

Presenter: Vicky Pietz/Committee

Discussion:

- The next Advisory meeting date and time was not scheduled. A doodle poll will be sent out for the next meeting date.

<i>Action(s):</i>	<i>Person(s) Responsible:</i>	<i>Due Date(s):</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send doodle poll 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bobbi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before next meeting

