

Farm Business Management  
Ag. Advisory Committee  
Minutes 11/25/2003

- Meeting called to order at 8:10 by Ron Dvergsten
- First item was to fill the chairmanship vacancy created when Tom Scholin went off the committee. Curt Swanson was nominated. On a motion by Glenn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bryan and unanimously carried, **Curt was elected chairman of the Advisory Council.**
- Introductions were next with **Steve Hamre** and **Linda Hanson** introduced as new members to the council. Steve farms in the Beltrami area and Linda farms in the Goodridge area; we welcome and thank both for serving in this capacity. It was noted that Linda was unable to attend this first meeting due to a health condition and we certainly wish her a speedy recovery.
- **Minutes were mailed out** prior to the meeting with the agenda and were approved on motion by Danie, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve.
- **State Advisory Committee Update:** Curt Swanson reported back to the local group, as a member of the state committee. This was Curt's first meeting on the state council. Issues discussed were tuition costs, FBM website, e-learning classes, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary update and bank support.
- **Bob Bollesen-Dean of Management Education Update:** spoke briefly about the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Farm Business Management. He said booklets would be mailed out.....State Advisory committee has concerns with the rising tuition costs and proposed an increase to the management subsidy that didn't happen legislatively due to current state budget woes. The last subsidy increase occurred in 1998 going from \$13.50/credit to \$18.50/credit.....E-learning grant was reviewed by statewide committee with discussion/concerns regarding who owns the course. After discussion/review, a full-blown e-learning course is the property of the college and an on-line enhancement is owned by the state.....Bob talked briefly about the merger of Northland Comm. And Tech. College bringing campuses in TRF and EGF together as one college. Reviewed the current Org Chart to the council with Bob reporting to Kent Hanson, Provost and Chief Academic Dean located on the EGF campus.....Additional discussion took place regarding the cost of program and its impact on attracting new students and it was discussed that some area creditors have expressed an interest in financially encouraging their customers to continue in the FBM program.
- **National Farm and Ranch Bus. Mgmt Education Association:** Ron Dvergsten is the President-Elect of the National Organization and updated the council on its activities and annual in-service conference.....They are looking at an on-line

- FBM library where various tools/templates could be made available to members as well as web site links.
- **Prairie Grains Conference:** FBM will be involved with some of the break-out sessions as in past years.....Ron talked about the Profitable Crop Production Study that Northland will be compiling for the second year in a row.....Ron and Greg will be presenting the results of this study at the conference as well as to our local producer groups as part of our usual current topics sequence.....Other topics such as marketing, etc will also be done at prairie grains.
  - **Lender Update Forums:** it was discussed with the council that the instructors are planning to re-institute a lender forum in the spring to cover some of the results of the Profitable Crop Farm study as well as other pertinent info of interest to the lender groups.
  - **Winter Current Topics Meeting Schedule:** First session has been set for Dec. 3, 2003 on Agricultural Tax Change updates and the importance of knowing your credit score and how it is used to price credit, etc.....  
Other possible ideas brought up by the council include:
    - NRCS on new farm bill Conservation issues
    - follow-up on business plan development
    - tiling economics by Zach Fore
    - electronic computer usage.....utilizing internet search engines, setting favorites and organizing, setting home page, email, etc.
    - planning for future in agriculture.....ownership vs. rental, maybe tie it in with the fair rent program.
  - **Annual Meeting:** It was mentioned that the instructors were considering holding an annual meeting for FBM students in Crookston and Thief River Falls on two separate days this year rather than same day. This would allow for both sessions to be held in a morning time slot to hopefully increase attendance at the TRF site. The council felt that this was a good idea.
  - **MN Ag and Rural Leadership (MARL):** Bryan Grove updated the group regarding the MARL program that he has been involved with. Very worthwhile experience but participants need to be motivated and willing to spend the time to get the full benefit from the program. It is a two year program, \$4,000.00 commitment, and 30 participants are needed to run the program. January thru March of 2004 will be a recruiting phase.
  - With no other business to discuss and upon a motion by Ron, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Danie the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by:

Greg Dvergsten  
Council Secretary