

Management Education Advisory Council Meeting
Best Western Inn
November 16, 2006

Curt Swanson called the meeting to order at approximately 8:05

Members present included Curt Swanson, Steve Holte, Linda Hanson, Glenn Bergeron, Jeremy Nelson, Tom Harlow, Bryan Grove, Hans Kandel, Ron Dvergsten, Danie Packard, Dennis Sevigny, Greg Dvergsten and guest Dr. Jeff Thomas, Academic Dean NCTC-TRF campus.

We went around the room and everyone introduced themselves. We would like to welcome Jeremy Nelson as a new council member and appreciated Dr. Jeff Thomas joining us for the morning.

Dr. Thomas gave an update from the college as a whole and talked about the importance of the information we as a college receive from our advisory council and extended his appreciation of all the members being willing to serve. Jeff mentioned that we were pleased to have Dr. Anne Temte as the new college President. Northland has a whole new smart classroom and office space in our Roseau site and talked about the programs being offered up there. He also mentioned that the management area is going to be remodeled this spring.

Dean of Management Education Update:

Management office space will be remodeled in the spring. John Murray, state management supervisor, has officially retired and his replacement has not been posted yet. They are still trying to determine the proper classification for the position and where it is located, etc. Ron also became the new coordinator of the PEP (Professional Excellence Program) program for new FBM instructors. Ron mentioned one of his biggest concerns is finding qualified new instructors to replace a somewhat aging management faculty.

Ron updated the group on the various different grant programs that have been acquired over the past year. Betsy Jenson secured a \$9,500 USDA grant to continue the JAVA marketing charts on toolshed that were originally done with a MEALC grant. Dennis Sevigny secured a \$39,200 USDA Grant to complete the Prec. Ag. Mobile Classroom concept that was also started with a MEALC grant. Thaddeus McCammant, specialty crops instructor also has received USDA grants the past three years for strawberry disease research.

Dairy Diagnostic Program:

Danie has just completed his first year as the Dairy Diagnostic Program coordinator. The program had a good year with 52 farms being visited and the whole budget was spent. 26 visits last fall and 19 visits scheduled this fall. The new coordinator (Danie) does not attend each visit as the previous coordinators had. The FBM instructor that works with the farm serves as the coordinator for the site visits. Danie indicated that there will be changes in the program in the near future to try and bring a similar approach to all

regions that have dairy diagnostics. There are 6 different diagnostics regions currently and each region basically sets there parameters as to how the program will work. This will most likely change in the near future to bring more state control of the process.

Small Business Management and SBDC (Small Bus. Development Corp):

Dennis gave an update first on the SBM program and the fact that student numbers statewide are down in this program as well as the number of instructors. Dennis mentioned that part of the reason for this is that SBM does not have an annual analysis setup to help entice continued enrollment beyond a couple of years. However, the SBDC is doing a fair amount of work on a service basis with no charge to the start-up business. Therefore, Dennis is now contracting with the SBDC to provide some of there services for start-up businesses and other businesses needing help.

Precision Agriculture and the new Mobile Classroom:

Dennis wrote a grant to the USDA to complete the Prec. Ag. Mobile Classroom. We are working currently on educating the educators (FBM Instructors). High School agriculture instructors are also going to be targeted for training early next summer and Dennis has secured a grant to help provide for tuition subsidy dollars for high school instructor to get trained and incorporate the curriculum into their high school classrooms. The mobile classroom includes an enclosed trailer, an Arctic Prowler, laptop computers with additional monitors, GPS units, GIS, etc.

There were several questions for Dennis regarding specifically who will be targeted for training , etc. The mobile classroom will work great with groups of about 4-8 and could be FBM, Extension Specialists, Bankers, High School Ag Instructors or farmer groups. The hopes down the road would be to eventually work with individual producers more as the technology becomes more widely adapted.

Organic FBM Program:

Program started January of 2006 as a MN department of agriculture grant with roughly 60 organic farms enrolled in the program statewide with about a third of these farms from Northlands NW region of the state. Due to the large number of farms interested in the program the tuition stipend amount was adjusted to provide 80% for the first year, but down to 70% in year 2, and 60% in year 3.

Gen Ed Requirements and Accreditation:

Jeff Thomas and Danie updated us on the Gen Ed requirements. Part of our accreditation agreement and expectations with the higher learning commission is that we will have some gen ed in all degree and diploma program. The college does need to address and institute a policy within the next couple of years prior to our next accrediting visit as to our colleges requirements regarding gen eds for each program offering. Motion by Tom, seconded by Brian, recommending that a member of the management department should work with the new committee that will be setting the parameters for general education courses in the college and specifically for individual programs.

Program Learner Outcomes:

Danie handed out our program learner outcomes which were drafted by the management department and recently presented to and approved by the Academic Affairs and Standards Council.

Program Assessment Review:

The college as a whole has requirements that each program will assess what is being taught and as such, we reviewed with the committee the recently developed student post diploma survey documents as well as an annual document to be completed by all management staff to compile data on student's learning. Hans indicated that the student survey should maybe include reference to the student's level of understanding in each of the student learner outcome areas prior to enrollment in FBM as well as after receiving the diploma. This would help provide a gauge to actual student progress and will be taken into account when the final version is compiled.

Statewide Strategic Planning Work Plan:

Ron handed out the FY07 Action/work plan for management education. One of the largest concerns of many new and experienced instructors is the whole process of student recruitment as tuition costs have been rising, etc. With that said, the Deans of management secured funding to bring in a sales training specialist to the various different regions to help train instructors and give them the confidence to go out and sell.

Mediations:

Ron reviewed a recent handout that he received regarding farm mediations over the past year. Numbers are up in the area that they were back in the 80's which is obviously a concern with the number of farms struggling financially.

Bovine TB:

Bryan- talked about the ramifications of Bovine TB and the importance of management educators bringing themselves up to date in this area to be of as much assistance as possible to these producers.

Motion by Glenn, second by Linda to adjourn and approved.

Respectfully,

Greg Dvergsten, Council Secretary