

Northland Community and Technical College
Farm Business Management
Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, April 13, 2010

President Anne Temte welcomed everyone and thanked the group for their support/involvement with Northland. Supper was provided by the college for the annual college-wide Advisory Council Banquet in the Gunderson Commons at 6:00. A delicious meal was had by all.

Members in attendance were Curt Swanson, Linda Hanson, Bill Craig, Steve Hamre, Bryan Grove, Danie Packard, Ron Dvergsten and Greg Dvergsten. Absent: Tom Harlow, Jeremy Nelson and Steve Holte.

Norma Konshak, Dean of Academic Affairs talked about the colored program sustainability sheets developed by the college for assessing individual cost effectiveness of programs, etc. The Management Education Department has not been a part of the Program Sustainability process currently taking place in the college as our program really does not fit many of the metrics set. From a cost standpoint, Management Education is about average at Northland College in regards to program costs of the technical programs. Ron indicated to the group however, that Management Education, on a state level, is developing a similar process whereby we can assess management programs at the various colleges to see how we stack up against other management programs across the state.

Curt called meeting to order at about 7:08 pm. Introductions were not necessary. Motion by Bryan, 2nd by Linda to approve minutes of previous meeting, unanimously approved.

Ron then reviewed the new advisory council policy again to reiterate some of what Norma had already reviewed in the large group meeting. Handout was provided to all and reviewed. The main task will be to develop a work plan for the coming year.

Regional Dean Updates:

-Staffing changes: Mike Lockhart will be completing his 3 year annuitant after 30 some years of employment. The college will be posting a half-time FBM position in Kittson County replace Mike's position within the department. The Kittson County position will be posted through early May, with the idea to be filled by July 1, 2010.

We also had a support staff member retire that formerly entered all of our management registrations. Registrations are now entered by Rosie Gustafson, Administrative Assistant in the Management Department, and that process is going very well.

-We are down about 150 credits from last year, but one less instructor, so efficiencies are better this year. 5400 total management credits registered this year. Dennis Seigny, Small Business Management Instructor's position was terminated this past year due to low enrollment. This does

have a lot to do with the services being offered by the SBDC's; which is subsidized and several hours of services may be offered free of charge to prospective new businesses.

-College-wide NCA Accreditation will be taking place this spring with on-site visit taking place April 26-28, 2010. This is a very important process for the college to complete as accreditation allows for Financial Aid eligibility for our students.

Dairy Diagnostic Update:

Program has been around for about fifteen years now and Danie has been the coordinator for the past 5 years. There is currently a statewide reallocation of Dairy Diagnostic funding based on cow numbers and farm numbers. Our region will lose \$18,000 from our allocation due to this new funding formula. We will continue to work with the area dairy farms as best we can with the funding available.

We currently work with about 30% of the dairies in the area. There was a robotic milking machine installed in our region this past year and a couple more farms looking into the possibility in the near future. The Dairy Diagnostics grant was developed to help ensure the economic sustainability of MN Dairy's.

Statewide FBM Curriculum Project (WIDS):

This is a statewide process started about 3 years ago that began with a farmer dacum study that reviewed all the current duties and responsibilities of today's farmers. This information was then aligned with our curriculum to see where changes and modifications/additions needed to be made. From this review, the course materials were re-written and are available on-line for all MNSCU management instructors. This should be a huge benefit for new instructors that will be hired over the next several years to replace all the instructor retirements that will be forthcoming. Also, part of the WIDS website is a curriculum bank which currently has over 400 items in it which include various management tools/templates developed by instructors to be shared with instructors across the state.

FBM Program Review Process:

Danie reviewed the areas of the program review process that needed to be covered by the committee. The last program review was done 10 years ago. Team members for this current program review were Ron Dvergsten, Danie Packard, Bryan Grove, Randy Zimmerman and Greg Dvergsten. The FBM Program has had good community support, access to good equipment, and college owned vehicles for business travel. We have made changes through past program reviews and advise of our advisory council, etc. We value the advise and direction of the advisory committee and program review process.

2009-2010 State-Wide FBM Taskforce Recommendations:

There were three sub-groups set up as part of this process regarding 1)FBM Database Workgroup 2)Curriculum and Program Design Workgroup and 3)Resource and Partnership Development Database Workgroup. Ron reviewed with the group the recommendations of each

sub-group committee that will be targeted over the next couple of years. Handouts were provided and discussed.

Budgets proposed for FY11 are near final approval. It appears that our needs for the coming year will be appropriated as requested.

Motion to adjourn by Steve, 2nd by Linda and unanimously carried at 9:36