

**Farm Business Management
Advisory Council Meeting
December 12, 2012**

A buffet breakfast was provided by food services at the college starting at 8:00 am. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Curt Swanson at 8:15 am. Brief Introductions followed.

Those in attendance were Jeremy Nelson, Bill Craig, Tom Harlow, Curt Swanson, Bryan Grove, Brian Kasprick, Lance Hapka, ADawn Melbye, Greg Kalinoski, Ron Dvergsten, and Greg Dvergsten.

Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and approved on a motion by ADawn, 2nd by Tom Harlow.

Update on State FBM: (Ron)

Dick Joerger was terminated as State Supervisor of management education as of June 2012. Also, two of our Deans across the state have retired as of June 30, 2012 part of cost savings and there We currently only have about 2 ½ supervisors for management education statewide; not too many years ago that was 6 deans and a state supervisor.

Local Update: (Ron)

This past summer we had to initiate separation with 6 of our 14 instructors as part of retirements and other cost saving moves. Fortunately, we were able to hire two full time FBM instructors back; they are ADawn Melbye in TRF and Josh Tjosaas in Moorhead.

A big part of what took place this past summer was what we call right-sizing to be a more cost effective program; some of the staff last year (4 of the 14) were not full time.

Student Numbers with new staff changes:

FY11-5100 credits (570 students), FY12-4500 credits (507 students), student numbers for FY13 are estimated to be similar to last year.

Marketing Classes/Groups:

A discussion took place on webinars vs. face to face sessions and the viability of maybe starting a couple of new groups.

60 Credit Diploma Credit Split:

Our traditional 60 credit diploma program was converted to two 30 credit certificates. This was done to accommodate our FBM students not needing any outside general education courses to complete their FBM programs.

Special Projects being worked on:

A lot of Ron's time has been spent on special projects and grants so that special training can be provided to new instructors, etc. Some of the special projects provide scholarships to students for dairy diagnostics, beef cow-calf education, organic transition and specialty crop production to name a few.

Ron is serving as the principle investigator for the USDA Benchmark grant sub awards for MNSCU FBM. The 2012 grant was just approved last week. MNSCU FBM award is for \$76,000.00. 2011 was for \$114,500.00 and the first USDA Benchmark sub award for MNSCU FBM was 124,995.00.

Ron has also assumed the duties of administering the Dairy Diagnostics program that had been done by Danie Packard. It appears that this program will be funded by the legislature at the current level for the coming year. There will be a Dairy OSHA training workshop in McIntosh on February 14 & 21.

Dave Grafstrom continues his work with the Minnesota Turf Seed Council and the MAWG on farm nitrogen research field plots. Dave's position changed this summer from FBM instructor to Customized Training Rep. Dave is also working with the UAS staff here at NCTC.

Kohl Webinars:

These special webinars in the past had been funded out of state FBM college funds but this year will be sponsored/funded by Ag Country Farm Credit Services. There will be 5 sessions this winter: January 14 & 28, February 4 & 11, and March 11.

Prairie Grains:

Next week December 12-13, 2012 will be the MN Association of Wheat Growers Prairie Grains conference at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks. FBM will again be a co-sponsor/partner in the conference and Greg K & Greg D will be providing a breakout seminar on Agricultural Tax Issues and updates.

UMC Student Teacher:

The University of MN Crookston has a student teacher that will be working jointly with Lincoln High School Ag Department and with NCTC FBM during spring semester 2013.

FBM in the Future:

The question was posed to the group as far as any changes they feel we need to make as we go forward with the FBM program in the future. The technology piece was discussed regarding precision ag, etc and what our involvement could or should be, if any. There are so many different systems out there, that often it is the Equipment Dealerships and Agronomy services, etc that are setting this technology up for producers.

It was mentioned that the best way to recruit is by lender contacts and farmer to farmer contacts if the current student is happy with what they are getting from the program.

Meeting was adjourned promptly at 10:00am.

Respectfully,

Greg Dvergsten
Recorder