

Minnesota West Community & Technical College
Agriculture Advisory Committee Meeting
April 25, 2019

Members present: Dusty Neugebauer, Brad Meester, Mark Bents, Jesse Koerselman, and Christopher Christians (student representative). Jeff Rogers was also in attendance on behalf of the Minnesota West Agricultural Faculty.

Members absent: Andrew Bents, David Soderholm and Kile Behrends

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 a.m. by Dusty Neugebauer.

Previous meeting minutes were reviewed and approved. Motion-Brad /Second-Mark /Carried

Old Business:

1. Technology Funds: Jeff introduced some new technology equipment into the Ag program. Funds of \$22,000.00 were requested, have been approved and purchased. Auto-steer and sprayer technology labs are currently being assembled and set-up thru Jaycox Implement.
2. Tru-Shrimp: Tracy and RTR Agriculture programs are developing curriculum with Tru-Shrimp that will allow Minnesota West Community & Technical College credit through the Reach Program Concurrent enrollment.
3. Agriculture Education Courses: Minnesota West Agriculture program developed and implemented two agriculture education lab courses to fulfill shop/lab courses for S.M.S.U. Agriculture Education Program. Courses are taught by high school agriculture instructor at Marshall High School.

New Business:

1. Student Report – Christopher Christians provided the student report. Chris gave a brief history of his background and college experience. He started at S.D.S.U. and transferred to Minnesota West in his second year of college. He greatly enjoys the practical aspect and hands on experience he has gained here at Minnesota West. He also enjoys the smaller class sizes compared to S.D.S.U. He did an internship with Bob Wolf at Nutrien Ag Solutions – Adrian and has been offered a full time position there starting on May 20, 2019.
2. Faculty Report – Jeff Rogers updated committee on enrollment information and course offerings. Enrollment was down for 2018-2019, with 6 freshmen enrolled and 17 total students in the program. He has been doing many recruiting visits to various local school districts, including Worthington, Sibley, Jackson, Luverne, Lake Park, Edgerton, Slayton, Hills, Sioux Center and George-Little Rock. He sees some encouragement for next year's enrollment in these schools.

3. Articulation Agreement with SDSU – updated: MN West agriculture program continues to work with 4 year college/university programs to encourage seamless transfer into their programs. SDSU and MN West updated current articulation agreements that are in place to better align current programs offered.

4. Program Review: Jeff requested a course name change for the GIS/GPS course to become Introduction to Precision Farming. The committee agrees with this change. Motion – Brad/ Second- Jesse/ Carried. Brad encouraged inviting guest speakers from industry to participate in class. Brad would like to present a financial course to share Ag banking insights. Dusty encouraged continuing seeking technology requests to link education and Ag industry. The committee feels strongly that new precision equipment will better prepare students for advanced career opportunities and assist them on their own farm operations.

5. 5 year technology fund plan: Current technology request items are a feed ingredient chemical analyzer. Mark moved to support the chemical analyzer for animal science and nutrition course labs, as well as adding a mini GAC grain analysis computer for Agronomy and corn/soybean courses. Broad support from the advisory board is that precision agriculture is an integral part of today's agriculture and this is an area which will benefit student's preparation for the workforce as well as training for individual production farms. The board fully supports investment in equipment for hands on instruction, however, strongly encouraged developing relationships with industry to provide training. This will allow Minnesota West to stay current with new technology and preventing education to continually fund updated equipment. Motion-Mark / Second – Jesse/ Carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 a.m. Motion-Brad/ Second-Jesse / Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Bents