



ESSEX NORTH SHORE

AGRICULTURAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Fall 2020 Natural & Environmental Science Program Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, 22 October 2020 @ 6:00PM (Virtual)

Participants Present:

Dr. Joe Buttner
David Duest
Dr. Lynn Fletcher
Wayne Jalbert
Ryan O'Donnell
Charles Smith
Carole McCauley (new member)

Teachers - Paul Crofts, Martha Verrington, and Anthony Wilbur

Meeting started at approximately 6:05PM.

Curriculum Bias Form

Advisory Board reviewed the Spring 2020 & Fall 2019 review of Curriculum Bias Form and had no changes or further discussion.

Student Enrollment/Placement

Advisory Board reviewed numbers and discussed the number of classes (five) with three teachers, as Clay and Martha were reassigned to new teaching responsibilities. The Advisory Board was concerned with the lack of two teachers for effective and safe teaching practices. Additional discussion was on the lack of teaching space - particularly for Junior and Senior classes of Natural Resource Management.

Remote Learning Best Practices

Advisory Board members asked our approaches for remote teaching and offered the following ideas/suggestions:



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- Online resources & data sets

<http://datanuggets.org/>

<https://www.onthecoast.thetrustees.org/czm-products/360-panorama-tours-experience-crane-wasque-and-norton-point-beach>

Comments from board members indicated their satisfaction with teaching approaches, given that teaching in-person and remote are like having two different classes (preps).

Advisory Board members will also share potentially useful tools for remote teaching.

- Virtual visits

MWRA is working on a video of the Deer Island Wastewater Treatment facility, which will be useful remote teaching tool.

The Ipswich River Watershed Association has virtual paddle videos that may be useful in certain classes or lessons.

The Great Marsh Symposium will be virtual and be a potential opportunity for students to participate in the regional information exchange.

Internship & Co-op Opportunities

Seniors are encouraged to seek internship and co-op opportunities. One NR Senior is working with NOAA. Other students are in the process of exploring options for internships and co-ops.

Internships and co-ops are particularly challenging this year due to the pandemic.

A discussion on other options available to students included creating 'Shadow Days' for students. Shadow Days (or several days) would provide students with a shorter term experience in the field. **The Advisory Board and teachers would appreciate guidance from administration if the idea of Shadow Days is feasible.**



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Employment Outlook

Several Advisory Board members discussed the movement - retirement of employers due the pandemic, which opens the doors for students. Particularly Wayne Jalbert discussed openings in environmental consulting and David Duest discussed openings at MWRA. The employment outlook - overall - remains positive for students graduating from high school and college in the environmental field.

The Ipswich River Watershed Association and The Trustees have seasonal employment opportunities.

Recommendations

Determine if 'Shadow Days' - as mentioned above - are an opportunity for students.

Dr. Buttner recommended that all - teachers, students, and employers - need to be flexible and begin to seek opportunities for the beginning of next year. Volunteer opportunities will likely arise for students in the beginning of 2021.

New Business

Carole McCauley provided an update on the planned Coastal Education Center at Crane Beach.

Paul Crofts discussed grant awards and opportunities for Essex Tech.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45PM.