



Fall 2020 Program Advisory Committee Minutes

Program: Sustainable Horticulture

Date: 10/22/20

Members Present: Christopher Grant, Amanda Mattison, Jennifer Hashley, Briana Hanson, Bonnie Carr, Clayton Kern, Jillian Plante,

Program Facilitator: Jillian Plante

Committee Chair: Christopher Grant

Subject: Curriculum Bias Form

Discussion: No new textbooks have been used. Two noteworthy website/resources are seedyourfuture.org & Journey 2050. Will chat with Don to confirm how we should approve this.

Subject: Student Enrollment/Placement

Discussion: Freshmen- currently in Explore phase
Sophomores - 3
Juniors - 7
Seniors- 5 (1 currently on COOP)

Subject: Remote Learning Best Practices

Discussion: Chris asked about remote learning. Clay & Jillian shared - freshmen activities, internet resources we've been using, basics of remote learning



Subject: **New Trends in the Occupational Area**

Discussion:

Amanda - Switching growing mix - no more perlite- completely switching over to wood fiber- Hydrofiber. Sustainable approach. So far, trials seem to hold nutrients better and hold the moisture, healthy roots and faster turn around time by about 2 weeks. Winter projects, going through research trials more more sustainable fertilizers. Continuing with biologicals.

Chris- The covid response to bedding plants blew up the bedding plant, sales were through the roof. Farmers markets- have seen lots of people, all markets have different rules and stipulations, demand for local food is still there. Hydroponic lettuce took a hit, as restaurants were shutting down and the flow stops, summertime picked things back up.

Jennifer- Wears two hats- beginner farmer training program. Workshops about farming, growing food, crop production course. Incubator farm- demonstration gardens for people to learn in, can apply to grow on the incubator farm for up to three years, they can use the facilities, but not equipment. Food hub- buy products from incubators, alumni and distribute through a CSA. Farm to school work. Just got a donation of hydroponic equipment and have been visiting facilities and learning a little more. Run a pasture livestock farm in Lincoln, open for tours. Sometimes she even buys Essex Tech livestock.

Brianna- Our new greenhouse specialist. She's been doing some tours around the area, discovering more about what local areas are doing and how we could expand our areas.

Subject: **Employee Outlook**

Discussion: **Good!**

Amanda- We need bodies, desperately. Being doing long days because there aren't enough people.

Jennifer- Talked about the New Garden Society - finding employment for returning people, from incarceration etc.



always looking for versatile people who can do the retail and field and farm work. But, need both.

Subject: Portfolios

Discussion:

Chris- Resumes- one page, bare bones, not long or drawn out. A really good resume is worth its weight in gold. Sending a professional email without emojis or smiley faces. Want something useful. Use the job interview CDE and find a job posting.

Amanda- Springs Portfolio did a good job, tying things together, articulate experiences, how planning to apply. Experiences, projects, siting examples of projects and how they benefit them. Cover letters make you open the resume.

Bonnie- First line of communication are the resumes. Professional portfolio and a presentation portfolio. What's getting the employers attention. You have to get to the interview. Need to be more streamlined. Utilize Liz, & Ginnie.

Jennifer- Weight on the cover letter. Really understand the job you're applying for. No form cover letters. Not a regurgitation of their resume.

Subject: Recommendations

Discussion:

Make our group a little bit bigger.

Bonnie- the bigger the people would be better. More local within different areas.

Jennifer- Is there a description of the committee and it could be shared. (Jillian and Clay will work on putting one together.)

Field trips- Green industry related.

Jennifer talked about doing this for Tufts. Pool of people to go to, diverse tours.



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Subject: New Business

Discussion: Bonnie shared - the After Dark program, junior and senior year.
Amanda: Asked how its publicized.

Bonnie: Overview of the program is shared with the Sophomores, work with the liaisons there.

Amanda moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting, they were approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:22.