



Spring 2021 Program Advisory Committee Minutes

Program: Landscaping and Turf Management

Date: 4/7/21

Members Present: Tim Graham, Jack Domoracki, Bill Butts,
Eric Richardson, Greg Cormier, Brad Chase, Bill Frietag,
Bernie Giamberardino, Lisa Giannino, Bernie Hawkins,
Lily Hawkins, Josh Lowe, Travis Reardon, Kevin
Richardson, Joe Szczechowicz, Marc Morin

Program Facilitator: Tim Graham

Committee Chair: Bill Butts

Subject: Student Enrollment/Class of 2024

Discussion: Freshman placement was discussed. Tim Graham said that there were 11 new students, 10 of which were first choice. Board asked what the number was from the previous year. Tim answered 20 total with 19 first choices. At this point the Board asked Tim if he had any thoughts on why such a dramatically lower number. Tim responded that he thought that it was because of the hybrid schedule that was necessary because of covid. Tim went on to explain that with this hybrid schedule the freshman only got 2-3 days of in person class time, with most only getting 2 days of in person class time. Tim went on to explain that he thought that with this schedule there wasn't the ability to truly show off the program. Tim also explained that many shops that, like landscaping, traditionally recruit



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students once they're at school also have lower numbers. He also pointed out that many shops that students traditionally come to the Tech for high numbers. At this point the question was asked if the teachers thought that the move had any effect on the freshman numbers. Tim answered that he thought that the hybrid schedule had more to do with it, but that we would find out for sure once we were able to go back to the traditional schedule. The Board was satisfied with Tims answer and were very impressed with how Jack and Tim were able to work together to help teach the freshman exploratory class and still maintain social distancing.

Subject: **On Campus Learning Update**

Discussion: The Board emphasised again how impressed they were with the teaching that Jack and Tim were able to do under some very trying circumstances. With students being back full time, the Board asked what was the plan to have all the students in and still maintain social distancing. Jack began by saying that sense it was spring, classes would be outside most of the time. Jack went on to say that he had set up chairs in the garage so that students did have a place to meet in the morning.

Subject: **Curriculum Bias/Programmatic Review**

Discussion: This was briefly discussed. The Board agreed that the program was up to date and that Bill Butts and Tim Graham would fill out any necessary paperwork.

Subject: **Senior Portfolio Showcase**

Discussion: Jack explained that senior portfolios would be virtual again this year. The Board agreed that this was the best course of action. Several Board members volunteered to be part of this. Jack



said he would reach out to them with the details at a late date.

Subject: Employee Outlook/Industry Trends

Discussion: The Board continues to emphasize that the job market is very strong and that there are an abundance of jobs available.

Subject: Recommendations for Program

Discussion: Please see new business

Subject: New Business

Discussion: At this time the Board asked how the program was doing in the new spot. Jack said that during spring and fall it was fine, but during winter they were going to have a tough time teaching the hard skills that they had taught in the past. Board member Eric Richardson spoke at that time; ‘I agree with you Jack. It’s important that these students have a space to practise these hard skills. And that space needs to be in a vacuum so that the students are able to concentrate on learning the lesson. When students graduated from this program in the past, they had a book of hard skills with them. I’m afraid that those are going to be missing now. We need to find you two teachers a place to teach inside, hard skills all winter and bad weather days. We need to get you guys more space”. The Board unanimously agreed with Eric and agreed to brainstorm some ideas. At this time the Board was preparing to adjourn, when Tim asked for a few more minutes. Tim then asked the Board to help diversify the Board, specifically trying to recruit more female members. Tim spoke of how the classes were approximately 50% female and that we all needed to continue to show the female students



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women in the industry. The Board agreed and spoke of recruiting more female members.

The meeting adjourned at (time): 7:30 PM