



## Fall 2020 Program Advisory Committee Minutes

**Program:** Landscape and Turf Management

**Date:** 10/22/2020

**Members Present:** Brad Chase, Eric Richardson, Greg Cormier, Travis Reardon, Kevin Richardson, Bill Butts

**Program Facilitator:** Tim Graham, Jack Domoracki

**Committee Chair:** Bill Butts

**Subject:** Introduction of PAC Members

**Discussion:** As the group has been together for a few years now, there was less of an introduction and more of a catching up with each other. All members said that they and their families were all safe and doing well. All members said that business was better than they expected.

**Subject:** Review of spring 2020 minutes

**Discussion:** The board discussed and accepted the meeting minutes from the fall PAC meeting

**Subject:** Student enrollment/placement for class of 2023

**Discussion:** Tim Graham told the board that there were 18 students in the Sophomore Landscape class. The board was happy class size. The board then reiterated that they continue to think that last year's lower than average draw was just a fluke. Jack then spoke and told the board that almost half of the senior class was in co-op. He then spoke about how he was continuing to make this a priority in his teaching as he wants the students to get the first hand experience of the industry. The board continues to believe in the teachers and the strong industry outlook.

**Subject:** Remote Learning

**Discussion:** The board discussed remote learning. They spoke of how impressed they were with what they had heard about how effectively Essex Tech had implemented this Falls remote learning. Jack and Tim each took turns discussing what specifics about what they had been doing with each of their classes. They both spoke of how most of the students were receptive and some were not, but how that was similar to a traditional school day as well. They both spoke of how they were getting creative with their lessons as this time of year they would traditionally be



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outside working on landscaping much more. Jack and Tim also spoke about how they didn't know what next year would bring in terms of continued remote learning. The board commented that they believe Jack and Tim are doing a great job under some trying circumstances.

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

**Discussion:** The board brought up that there were no really new trends at this time.

**Subject: Employment Outlook**

**Discussion:** The board brought up the outlook for employment is stronger than ever. They spoke that some of them are having one of their best years ever, saying that with people being home so much they are investing in their landscapes

**Subject: Portfolios**

**Discussion:** Portfolios were discussed next. The discussion was how portfolios are going to be done this year and in future years. Jack and Tim discussed how the school was going to a virtual portfolio book. By doing the portfolio in a digital format it gives the school the option of doing portfolios remotely. The Board thought this was a great idea and believe that this will be the trend going forward

**Subject: New Business**

**Discussion:** The Board was very curious about how the move of space was working for the department. Both Tim and Jack said that it is working OK, but that they felt like they were living out of boxes. Jack and Tim both said that everything takes longer now because they don't know where all their stuff is yet and the stuff they do know is spread out. They also said that during the 10 days that they were working before the students started, that they were moving a lot of stuff out of the old shop still. The Board then asked what the plan was for this winter, in regard to social distancing, while still teaching the curriculum, in a much smaller space. Tim and Jack replied that they weren't sure yet what it would look like, but they were both working on it. The Board then asked what they could do at this time to help or if the program needed anything to help with the transition. Jack and Tim replied that there was nothing immediate that was needed. Jack and Tim continued to say that they needed to live in the new space for a while to see just what they needed.