



Spring 2022 Program Advisory Committee Minutes

Program: Landscape & Turf Management

Date: 4/7/22

Members Present: See attendance list

Program Facilitator: *(should be the instructor) Jack Domoracki*

Committee Chair: *(should not be an instructor) Bill Butts*

Subject *Program Updates (enrollment, competency attainment, curriculum, equipment & projects/field work, senior portfolio showcase, etc)*

Discussion

Jack informed the group that we recruited 24 freshman, 15 female students and 9 male students, and this was the largest class that has been recruited into the program. It was much more successful recruiting in person versus the recruiting through zoo. Karen Moulton from TM Landscaping asked why we thought more females were entering the program. Lisa from Country Gardens said she asked the female junior student who just started with co-op at CG why she chose landscape instead of horticulture and the student replied she joined because of the teacher. Credit was given to Tim Graham for developing and implementing a successful recruiting program that has resonated with students.



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Jack informed the group that the sophomore class is 7 females and 7 males, juniors class is 9 females and 8 males, seniors will be graduating 9 students 3 females and 6 males.

The 3 remaining juniors not on co-op will be assisting with ball field maintenance as 3 people have left the outside grounds crew.

Landscape will be working off campus in Salem installing some enhancements to the Larkin memorial. We will be working with sophomores and the remaining Juniors on this project.

We have been involved in grading the fill around the new Larkin building on campus. Seniors are operating skidsteers and the mini excavator as well as assisting with hand grading.

Students have been using the new tools from Pave Tech installing hardscape materials. Setting slabs and flagstone.

New shop/garage allowed us to do more indoor projects. Water features, terraces as well as equipment maintenance are being performed by students in the garage. It has been a huge help having the space with the large class size of 24 freshman and 17 juniors in the shop at the same time. Tim and Jack thanked the committee for supporting their request for the space. Arbor will be moving the last of there equipment once the shed is constructed next to the bus garage.

Jack informed the group that we have graded an area out by the edge of property by North Shore Community College to create a space to teach base prep, equipment ops and hardscaping outdoors in the fall months. Tim requires the shop space freshman cycles for recruiting purposes. This will allow Jack to set up with out having to break down and clean up every cycle and keep the schedule flexible in case classes are pulled off to do necessary on campus work. Bill Butts suggested setting up an outdoor “tent/shelter” for work.



Group all agreed to look into this once space was getting utilized. Maybe something we set up in the fall and take down in the winter to prevent snow damage to structure.

Subject *Cooperative Education Update*

Discussion

13 of 17 Juniors out on co-op in 7 nurseries, 3 at golf courses, 4 at landscape companies

7 of 9 Seniors are out on co-op. 2 at a nurseries, 4 at landscape companies, 1 at a golf course

Junior students start the resume, cover letter and job search process in the fall. Post any job opportunities with Liz Shea or Kristen Doherty in the fall. We encourage students to start applying before winter break

Students who want to participate in after school sports look for work with golf courses and nurseries due to the flexibility in work schedules they offer.

Subject *Review CTE Program Assessment*

Discussion

Jack & Bill Reviewed assessments

Subject *Employment Outlook/Industry Trends*



Discussion

Group all agreed that the industry looks strong for the foreseeable future. Everyone is experiencing a worker shortage. Wages are increasing as well as larger companies are offering more incentives such as a larger work uniform allowance as well as profit sharing and additional benefits. Eric from Brunt Shoe was given credit for helping our students with shoes. Smaller companies were also experiencing the same issues as the larger companies with a worker shortage.

Conversations led to finding a way to inform parents about the industry opportunities for their children. We may look into putting together a video for parents showing local businesses job, salary and career opportunities.

Subject *Recommendations for Program*

Discussion

John Marshal suggested incorporating more night lighting being taught. Bill Butts recommended that more plant ID be taught and plant information be taught to students.

Purchasing a front end loader and screening plant was brought up again this year. Composting and screening organic material generated on campus as well as screening loam and other soils would benefit maintaining the campus. It would also offer an opportunity for students to get more training and seat time in equipment.

Marc Morin suggested a dump trailer which could be pulled behind a van or green bus to accommodate students and materials for off campus projects.



Kevin

Richardson suggested a small portable hydroseeder. This could be used in maintaining the campus lawns in repairing snow plow damage as well as seeding new areas. It will teach students how to use this piece of equipment. Hydroseeder

could also be used for watering plants on campus which is a great way to get 2 for 1 out of a piece of equipment. Kevin Richardson recommended a 100 gallon combination waterer a hydroseeder they use on their golf course. He recommended a Rittenhouse, 100 gallon trailer hydroseeder.

Lisa from Country gardens suggested a small water trailer to be pulled by a gator for watering that can be used by students without a teacher in the vehicle. Kevin said that the 100 gallon model could be pulled by a gator.

All agreed that these pieces of the equipment were needed in the program to help students train on equipment that was in the industry.

Jake Marshal suggested purchasing equipment to maintain the ball fields. Tim and I said that the grounds crew already had quite a bit of equipment and that we could not assume responsibility for the maintenance of the fields. We could assist with the work being done by the grounds crew but could not assume responsibility for the fields and maintain teaching the rest of the landscape curriculum.

Subject *New Business*

Discussion

Jack brought up that Senior portfolios will be held in person in the media center Monday. There are only 9 seniors presenting. It should run for a couple of hours. We would like to have at least 3 people from industry there.

Joe from SLS said they would like to make the lawn renovation project an annual event for juniors. All agreed it was a great experience for juniors to oversee using a variety of methods. We will be looking into letting the school allow us to



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renovate the

lawn at the school entrance. We will contact the administration in June when school gets out to go over the locations.

The meeting adjourned at (time): 8:10 PM