In Attendance

*Members Present:*
Greg Millburg — Manager, DeKalb County Farm Bureau
Barbara Koehnke — CFO/Controller of Maplehurst Farms, Inc.
Erik Hill - Crop Consultant, Nutrien Ag Solutions
Bill Mullins – Mullins Farms
Zak Swanson – Bayer Waterman

*KC Members Present:*
Chase Budziak - Dean
Terri Wheeler - Student Worker, Recorder

- **Introductions**

  Chase welcomes everyone attending the meeting and thanks them or their time. He goes on to explain that this is his first year working fully with the agricultural department. Everyone goes around the table and introduces themselves.

- **Updates to Program**

  Chase wants to talk about the structure of the college and how it has changed and plans for the future, and updates on staff and faculty. He then wants to move the conversation to ask or advice and to have a discussion on what they think in regards to the industry.

  In the last year, there has been a reorganization to the academics at the college. Chase is involved in aspects such as business, career technology, office systems, EMS, and radiography. It allows the use of resources to serve students from a broad range of majors by making connections, and putting the pieces together to form a better picture.

  Currently, Steve Durin, the full time faculty member is on leave. Steve has still been helpful with providing insight and mentorship. With that being said, the college has noticed the need to have a full time faculty member in the department to assist with recruitment, advising, curriculum, and partnerships in addition to instruction. A job search should be uploaded with a week for the position that with hopefully be filled by spring. Janet Gallagher is helping out with the transitioning. She has credentials in agriculture, but teaches in the horticulture department.
There is an orientation for the agriculture class, which has 10 students enrolled. Students should be, and need to be encouraged to move forward. There are also animal science and soil courses that feed into horticulture, that are being offered.

**10th Day Report/ Enrollment**

Overall, there has been a 10% decrease from fall 2018 to fall 2019. If you factor in summer courses, there is an overall 7% decrease. Since 2012, there has been almost a 40% total decrease. The pool of students for agriculture is lower. Chase explains that if we could get a cohort students to go through the program, maybe even five students who can go through the whole program, it would tremendously help. Like previously mentioned, the decrease started in 2012 when the economy started to improve. There was also an influx of students from the Chicago area. We no longer have the same population attending as much. Chase goes on to say that the college is down 21 credit hours for AGR and AGT. While it is relatively stable, it does not demonstrate exponential growth at this time.

**Industry Standards, Certifications, Needs, and Concerns**

There a need to have a keener understanding of who the college should be connecting with in regards to marketing to students. It was asked if the certificate credits could be rolled over to an associates program. The answer was yes. Bill suggests that a survey could be conducted to both farmers and students on what they need in order to consider agriculture as a possible career option.

Zak mentions that Monsanto tries to bring in college aged kids in the summer. A lot of individuals don’t have a farming background. It relates to the college and making sure that the different programs are touching on food supply. It should be touched on across the board, not just science. Data is a huge aspect of agriculture. Zak said that a lot of new hires don’t have any agriculture background and are learning it on top of the new job. Any discipline could be related to agriculture.

It was brought up that marketing is not handled through Chase, and is instead grouped into other programs. He is trying to identify how to tailor the market better. Juniors in high school should be targeted more than seniors, as the majority of seniors know what they are going to major in. There are a lot of programs around this area that are agriculture related, however, individuals don’t see where a degree in agriculture can take them. They need to know that there is a connection between agriculture and other disciplines. Discussion of possibilities such as having an FFA member attend the meetings to give their insight, and dual enrollment opportunities for students in agricultures were brought up.

A review of updates will be discussed during next meeting session, and a market plan should be created as well. Exploring to setup of an articulate agreement should be talked about with Platteville, Iowa State, Illinois State, Western Illinois, University of Iowa, and Madison.

**Work-based learning, Internships**

The three elevators nearby at FSGrain are offering six agriculture students a paid internship for all harvest, which would allow the exploration of the different aspects of business. As of now, no students have responded to the email advertisement that was sent at the beginning of the semester. Other advisory members representing employers noted similar, suggesting that opportunities are available, but wondering where are the students? Zak suggested that maybe a more generic job title and more specific job descriptions could be a possible solution. The internships are four credit hours and students can take them up to three times.

**Agribusiness Advisory Committee**
Right now, we are operating off of a contact list that was compiled several years ago. Chase asks if there is anyone he should reach out to and invite to the meetings. The committee came up with FFA members and local agriculture teachers as possibilities to join in.

- **Open Business/ Next Meeting**

  Barbara motions to approve the previous minutes and Greg seconds the motion. The committee agrees that the next meeting should be set for some time in March of 2020.