In Attendance

Members Present:
Larry and Vickie Hubbard – Pepper Creek Rockford
Mathew Fredrickson – Midwest Groundcovers
Chris Bausman – Crimson Valley Landscaping
Kelsey Minalga – Ball Horticulture Company

KC Members Present:
Catherine Marsh – Adjunct Professor, KC/AJG
Janet Gallagher – Instructor, KC
Rich Alde – Instructor, KC
Chase Budziak – Dean of Instruction, KC
Terri Wheeler – H/E Student Worker, Recorder, KC

Consent Agenda Items

a) Minutes from the previous meeting
b) Department Activities
c) Greenhouse Update
d) Work Week

a. Motion to approve Spring 2019 minutes. Second by Vicki. Everyone in favor. Motion accepted.

b. **Field Studies** – This September 24th-26th, students and faculty will take part in the St. Louis Field Studies Trip. On this trip students will get to experience the inner workings of multiple horticulture businesses and faculties. On this trip we will be visiting Stark Brothers Nursery, Alberici Group (sustainable), Dierbergs floral, Bellerive Country Club, Urban Buds, Missouri Botanical Gardens, Baish and Skinner, and Eckerts Orchard.

**NCLC** – The National Colligate Landscape Competition is a great experience for students with hands-on competitions against 64 other colleges nationwide. We can establish business connections for the future, attend educational seminars as well as teamwork among peers. This is a life skill strengthening event. We had one outstanding student who graduated in May.

**Annie Von Arx**
131st of 788 Students
3rd out of 48 participants in Exterior Landscape Design

**Students placing top 3rd of their event**

- Kim Rotella
- Kim Rotella
- Trevor Ryan
- Andre Vallejo

- Annual/Perennial Identification
- Compact Trak/Skid Steer Loader Operation
- Turf & Weed Identification
- Computer Aided Landscape Design
Annie Von Arx  Exterior Landscape Design
Annie Von Arx, Andre & Ulysses Vallejo  Landscape Plant Installation

**Floral Club (SAIFD)** – We had 3 students attend symposium this last summer in Las Vegas, NV. Peyton Lamps placed 9th for her wedding design and Hayley Krull placed 7th for her interpretation design. This year students are doing a floral subscription for faculty and staff to purchase arrangements for the semester to raise money for symposium for next summer which will be held in Chicago, IL.

**Horticulture Club** – September 20th Tour of Ball Seeds genetics lab and distribution areas. October 17th Pumpkin Carving and Zombie Tag fundraiser
We will be starting our Wreath Fundraiser
We will also be volunteering a couple of days a month for cleaning in designated areas around campus. For every hour the club member volunteers they receive a raffle ticket for a gift basket at the end of the semester.

C. The renovations of the greenhouse are about to begin. The head house will have ADA compliance when this project is complete. We will be redoing bathrooms, chemical areas, and the tissue culture lab. Depending on available funds the office will be redone as well. Due to the renovations, Rich will be moving his office to B1406 and Kim will be moving to COB. We will still have labs in the greenhouse and the garage spaces. There will be no bathroom accessibility during the renovations.

D. This October we will be having our annual work week activities on campus. This year we will be working on improving hardscape/gravel pad area just west of the greenhouses. The lathe houses will have a hardscape floor that will begin construction, and a Bio-therm to the propagation bench, downsize and reshape the AAS display garden, clean around the Lean0to and up to the ramp at door 49, downsizing of other college areas Electric sign on route. 38 and replacing and refreshing of interior plants throughout campus. Some of the funding for these projects will be from plant sale dollars. There will be a number of projects taking place in the greenhouse. The floral students will be working on holiday decorations and other activities.

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**Curriculum Updates**

**Fall 2018 Enrollment Data Results** – We are down 70 credit hours, 14.3%. With the employment rate being low since the 60s, individuals are not coming to further their education. Horticulture rates are down and are down all across the board with other degrees in 2 and 4 year colleges. We still have a number of nontraditional students. Matthew Fredrickson asked if there are concerns for the program. Chase Budziak responded to this question by saying that the enrollment rates are low all across the boards. The thing to worry about is the cost of the program and the amount of students. There are 40 students and it shows a need for this program. Therefore, there isn’t too much of a concern.

**Curriculum Update** – The college wants to have degrees and certificates that can be stackable. One of our goals is to look into the stack ability. There is consideration of combining Greenhouse and Floral degrees into one. However, they don’t want to lose the fact that there is a Greenhouse program AND a Floral Program. The dead-end is what to do with the landscape and nursery and how to combine it along with what to call it. Janet said that in meeting with some of the teachers, they will send students their way, but if the program is not specifically stated, they look for other places to go. An example of this issue would be the turf degree. There is also consideration of requiring turf students to do two internships along with doing away with the nursing management course and implementing a one hour course. It is believed that dual-enrollments are beneficial. It was asked if requiring two internships was realistic in this economy. Training is expensive so employers use internships as a possible employee for the future. Rich Alde and Janet Gallagher said that if the student can gain experience and diversity in different areas within the internship, it might be an exception. They also
explained that the only certificate program that would have a two internship requirement is turf. Matthew Fredrickson and Chris Bausman mentioned that parents have a huge role in student decisions when it comes to internships.

Industry Updates

**Crimson Valley Landscaping** – Chris Bausman said that they are wanting to add new individuals who can grow with the company, which is hard with field workers. As far as the company itself goes, they are having the best year possible.

**Midwest Ground Covers** – Matthew Fredrickson said that the company celebrated their 50th anniversary. Labor is still a concern. It is difficult to hire people for basically any position. The year started off slow, but it is getting better.

**Pepper Creek** – So far it has been a good season. The weather at the beginning of the year was a slow start. Operations for the flower shop was a bit difficult, however, Larry and Vicki Hubbard completely separated themselves from FTD.

**Ball Horticulture Company** – Kelsey Minalga said that they are remodeling their facility. However, they are having issues with employees. No one wants to stay in Illinois.

**Anderson Gardens** – Catherine Marsh said that the admissions have increased. They will be open for 3-4 more weeks depending on the weather. There has also been an increase in the number of events. Around 600-1200 individuals attended Music in the Gardens.

**Interview Day, Tuesday, March 3rd.**

**New Business**

It was mentioned that new graduates have a lack of problem solving skills along with fear of failure, and they can’t take criticism. Janet Gallagher said that it is something they are working on teaching the students. They have been introducing some situations that need problem solving. It is something that they can add more of.

**Next Meeting**

Tuesday, March 3rd at 2:00 PM

Meeting Adjourned at 3:16PM