

Hennepin Technical College
Landscape/Horticulture Advisory Meeting Agenda
11/4/19, 3:30 pm
HTC Brooklyn Park Campus, Room B120

In attendance:

Jay Siedschlaw, Deb Kvamme, Byron Emmons, Shayne Johnson, Alison Leintz, Dawn O'Connor, Scott Herbst, Janice Swanson, Zan Tomko,, Danielle Fehring, John Turriffin, Gary Wirkus, Mike Miron, Anna Poteryakhin, Stephen Harper

1. The meeting was called to order by Jay at 3:30 pm.
2. Introductions were made by attendees.
3. Additional agenda items were offered: Anna added the topic of Math for the Trades.
4. Student Landscape/Horticulture Club Update – Students Emilie Plecity and Zara Wirkus
The L/H Club is open to all HTC students, although participation is generally just students from our program. An event is held generally once a month, and has a community building activity that can also serve as an educational tool. The board meets once a month and decides on activities to be held. The events are promoted via Facebook and on a webpage on the HTC website. Shayne recommended that the club researches Collegiate Plant Initiative to get ideas for the group.
5. Approval of minutes from 9/25/18 meeting. Janice Swanson motioned to approve. John Turriffin seconded the motion. Motion was approved.
6. Hemp task force – Deb Kvamme
Hemp-growing will be affecting the industry in the coming years, so Deb recommends beginning plans now to possibly incorporate growing practices of this crop into curriculum in the future. She envisions adding one 1-day lecture on industry practices for this crop during the summer semester, and growing a small number of plants during this time frame. Deb asked the group for opinions on whether they saw this as a need in the industry. The group discussed: the cost of the crop's lighting and space needs, as well as the cost of seed; the need for HTC Administration to be in support; the lack of quality, lawful education available to potential growers; licensing requirements and possible legalities that may be in place; clarification that hemp is a different plant than marijuana, and how to communicate that to others, especially in terms of security and legalities; the U of MN is teaching this, but no other 2-year colleges do; and an industry convention will be held in Minneapolis this December. Zan Tomko motioned for the committee to create a task force to explore the possibility of providing hemp-growing information to students. Janice Swanson seconded the motion. Motion was approved. Those interested in participating in the task force were asked to contact Deb.
7. Arboriculture task force – Jay Siedschlaw and Deb Kvamme
Low enrollment in Arboriculture classes has resulted in canceled classes for several years. Enrollment is sufficient in Arboriculture 1 and Tree Climbing 1, but few students then take Arboriculture 2 and Tree Climbing 2. Students seem to find they receive enough information in the first level class to get hired in the industry. Instead of forming a committee task force at this point, Alison recommends that faculty meet with her and Anna to see how we might better realign curriculum to solve this issue. The resulting decision will then be presented to a few individuals in the industry, and then a formal proposal for curriculum change will be presented to the advisory committee at the next meeting.
8. Turf class – Jay Siedschlaw and Deb Kvamme
Through surveys, students have voiced generally low opinion of the Turf Culture and Management class. This may be due to redundancies with the curriculum, as well as a new instructor. Currently

we have no students with this area of focus; neighboring college Anoka Tech has a good program available for individuals going in to the turf field. Discussion was made about which classes could incorporate any turf curriculum if this class was potentially eliminated. But it was also pointed out that turf is a widely-needed service for which many dollars are spent and many workers are needed, and that it's a good entry-level course in that many of our potential students may have worked lawn care in the past and might connect with the program through this course. It was decided that faculty discuss options with Alison, and make a proposal to the committee at the next meeting if warranted.

9. Greenhouse poly replacement – Deb Kvamme

Storms this year have prompted a roof replacement for three HTC greenhouses. Poly coverings were replaced 10/26/19 by a Park Rapids company.

10. Plant sale 2019

The 2019 Plant Sale was an educational and financial success, despite the fact that the days of the week were changed from prior years, due to HTC's graduation date.

11. Bee Campus USA – Zan Tomko

Bee Campus USA is a designation set by the Xerxes Society. Participants receive recognition for leadership in this area, and can be used to attract new students and industry respect. Similar to HTC's Tree Campus USA designation, which began in 2011, certain criteria must be met on an annual basis. HTC has the possibility of becoming MN's first Bee Campus site. Students in Fall 2018 Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants worked on the 169 Project, and worked to put together information needed for the Bee Campus USA application. Alison will be discussing this with Leanne Rogstad, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs, at their next meeting on 11/12/19.

12. Plant Sale Dates – Deb Kvamme

Tentative dates for HTC's 2020 plant sale are Wed 5/6, Thurs 5/7 and Fri 5/8. Dates need to be approved by HTC Administration.

13. MNLA scholarships – Jay Siedschlaw

Eight HTC students were awarded scholarships from MNLA this past January, out a total of 24 \$1,000 scholarships the association gave out. Industry businesses give \$500 donations designated to their choice of colleges, and the funds are matched by the MNLA. Jay feels that we have reached our maximum number of scholarships we can request without backlash from other schools and certain industry members. Jay and Deb are considering awarding up to three \$500 scholarships from Plant Sale funds. Possible ways to leverage this effectively would be: to seek businesses to match our \$500 grants, in a similar structure to the MNLA scholarships but run through HTC directly; or combining a Plant Sale-funded scholarship with a paid internship provided by an industry partner, as suggested by Stephen who arranges similar partnerships for other HTC partners. Faculty will set up a meeting with Alison, Stephen and Nairobi to determine the best arrangement to seek.

Off topic, Jay shared that there may be an opportunity to partner with HTC's business program to offer a new certificate that incorporates Landscape/Horticulture with classes on running a small business. The business classes are all offered online, so students would have flexibility with fitting those classes into their schedules.

Mike added that, similar to the HTC scholarship plus paid internship idea, high school students are being sought after by companies. Students work before graduating high school, and they receive both school credit and pay from their employer. In partnerships like this, Mike stresses that their goal is not for the students to be workforce ready, but that their next step should be more education within the industry.

14. Enrollment Update – Jay Siedschlaw

Current enrollment is good, in comparison to other comparable Midwest colleges. Our numbers

have been increasing while other programs are dwindling and/or closing altogether. Alison shared data showing that L/H enrollment has increased from 2017 to 2018, and again from 2018 to 2019. Data on 2020 is not yet available. The group discussed the merit of participating in national career fairs. Jay also shared that while corporate sponsorship of the program was possible and could result in great enhancements, he and Deb do not have enough time to pursue them. Stephen and Alison confirmed that many corporations partner with HTC programs in this way and provide high value technologies and improvements. Jay asked for the advisory committee's assistance in this area.

15. Concurrent/Articulation Updates – Jay Sieldschlaw, Deb Kvamme, Mike Miron, Gary Wirkus
The HTC Landscape/Horticulture department has Concurrent arrangements with Forest Lake and Buffalo High Schools. Concurrent students may be more likely to enroll in HTC after graduating high school, as some of their required coursework has been completed. Articulation partnerships have not shown to be as effective as paths to enrollment. Deb and Jay are exploring partnership options with Highland Park HS, Champlin Park HS, Anoka HS, and a high school in Eden Prairie. HTC tours were given to students from St. Francis HS and Princeton HS, where they also attended our program's Career Fair.
16. Other Business
Math for the Trades and Computer Essentials – Anna Poteryakhin
Math for the Trades and Computer Essentials are currently required, but it may be a barrier to some students. Alison stated that completion rates shouldn't drive and changes as much as what the industry needs in its future employees, asking the advisory group to weigh in. There was concern about whether students would not be prepared with necessary math skills if Math for the Trades was not required, but after discussion it was felt that the other required classes in the program did contain sufficient math education to compensate.
17. Seed Your Future – Shayne Johnson
18. Adjourn
Gary Wirkus motioned to adjourn the meeting. Janice Swanson seconded the motion. Motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.