April 16, 2008 - ALEC Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

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Council Members Present: Kevin Anderson, Annie Doerr (standing in for Laura Joy), Craig Frederick, David Grimes, Tom Hermance, Dennis Kahl, Karen Kollars, Matt Kreifels, Gayle Starr, Jessalyn Schrock (standing in for Laura Maricle), Bud Stolzenburg, Joana Story, Elaine Stuhr, Tom Tabor, Bruce Williams.

AgLEC Members Present: Leverne Barrett, Lloyd Bell, Jason Ellis, Dick Fleming, Jennifer Greenlee, Jim King, Gail Latta, Gina Matkin, Lisa Pennisi, Alyssa Smola, Dan Wheeler.

Guests: Dana Bailey (via phone), Christin Brown Kamm, Kayla Churchill, Terry Hejny, Kevin Sicner, Samuel Stockton.

Chairman Kevin Anderson called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. Introductions were made.

Membership changes on the AgLEC Advisory Council
Matt Kreifels, Agricultural Educator at Blair High School, succeeds Chad Schimmels, Agricultural Educator at Eustis, who is working on a Master’s degree, and found it difficult to attend meetings.
Joana Story, president of the AgLEC graduate students, succeeds Greg Gifford.
Laura Joy, president of the Agricultural Education Club, succeeds Annie Doerr. Laura has class conflicts so Annie will represent her today.
Laura Maricle is the new president of the Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow. She succeeds Ryan Hassebrook. Laura has class conflicts so Jessalyn Schrock will represent her today.
Don Hutchens, director of the Nebraska Corn Board, decided not to seek another term. He felt it was time for someone else to serve on the AgLEC Advisory Council. We appreciate his contributions as a member and as president of the Council.

Update on Department: Dan Wheeler presented some highlights about AgLEC.
Accomplishments:
- Enrollment in basic and value-added programs and majors:
- Growth and recognition in the leadership program: graduate program 140 students (30 doctoral students)
- Leadership minors required in some programs and promoted in others
- Continued development in Ag Journalism, Tourism & Parks & Recreation, and undergraduate leadership
- Adding of the Industrial Technology Program (Tom Craft)
- Preparation of Ag Teachers to meet replacement needs
- Students moving into good jobs and careers
- Preliminary Strategic Plan 2008-2013 developed
- Three grants associated with Teaching and Extension
Continuing to add to knowledge base in various areas in AgLEC-research and applications

Opportunities:
- CASNR Leadership Certificate-Linda Moody
- ACE courses-New General Education Courses (ALEC 102, 202, 302, 305, 410, 412) – Lloyd Bell consultant
- Association for Communication Educator’s Leadership Development Project (continuing a second year)-Kelly Phipps coordinator
- Country Commissioner Training (with Extension) –Leverne Barrett and Jason Ellis presenters

Challenges:
- Faculty to meet program needs (retirements and one person programs)
- Use of adjuncts and courtesy appointments especially in undergrad courses
- Cooperation with other units (School of Natural Resource Sciences)
- Proposing new positions-new department head
- Office staffing-one retirement and personnel health issues
  - Hired a replacement (Jennifer Greenlee) for retirement
  - New department head will influence future staffing
- Generating outside revenue
  - Research opportunities
  - Scholarships for students
  - Contracts
- Graduating more Ag teachers to fill positions and provide choices
  - New relationships-Dort College of Ohio and Wayne State –Lloyd Bell
  - Hire a lecturer to support teaching program

Departmental Review beginning fall 2008
- Integrating Various Programs into AgLEC
- New Department Head-three candidates interviewed
  - 50% administrative/ 50% faculty responsibilities
  - Dan Wheeler retiring June 2008

Update on Student Recruitment-Alyssa Smola gave an update on recruitment activities.
- Recruitment Display-work in progress
- Updating Facebook-222 friends-provides avenue to info current AgLEC students
- Department newsletter will be emailed with highlights of the year
- Buzz-Top 10 reasons to be in AgLEC, Club Activities, Note from Faculty
- 2008 Central Plains Severe Weather Symposium and Weather
- Mailings-March 3rd post card to 536 juniors-our majors and our website
  - April 1st letter to 547 juniors-what the department has to offer
  - Post card-to state FFA degree recipients
- Events-State FFA booth
- Admitted Student Event
- Kearney Career Fair
- Other: Industry Technology-8 students currently teaching; have 31 students in IT
- Jason Ellis added that CASNR is up--thanks to support from Alumni
**Introduction of new director of Nebraska LEAD Program**-Terry Hejny: Director of the Nebraska LEAD Program for seven months. He took over for Dr. Allen Blezek.

**Introduction to Classroom Simulation Experience**-Leverne Barrett-overview of Libertyville. It is an undergraduate Leadership final. The experience simulates a rural community; the characters try to influence their agenda in and around town. It is designed to be used in leadership in the community. Fifty students participate in the simulation. They are evaluated in three ways:
1. self-evaluation
2. peer-evaluation
3. teacher-evaluation

**Tourism Program Update**-Lisa Pennisi new faculty member in AgLEC and students: Kayla Churchill, Kevin Sicner, Samuel Stockton
- **HRTM Major**: Partnership between CASNR and CEHS
- **UNL program characteristics**: focus on green, tourism for communities that supports environment.
- **Degree coursework**: AgLEC 102, new courses (13 new and revised curriculum)
- **Changing the core**
- **Changing the options**: Ecotourism, Parks and Recreation
- **Guided Electives**
- **Recruitment Activities**: Red Letter days, CASNR Power of Red
- **Enrollment**: 07-08 51 students in the fall
- Kayla Churchill presented her project: 2 The Ends of the Earth
- Samuel Stockton and Kevin Sicner presented their project: Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway

**Extension Program Developments**-Presented by Dennis Kahl, Extension Educator and Council Member: Leadership and Entrepreneurship; Update on Leadership Plenty-Core Values and Assumptions:
- People work together
- Effective long term goals
- Build relationships
- Respectfully addresses us against them
- **New Leadership curriculum**
- **New Extension Leadership program**

**Report on 4-H ESI Curriculum (Entrepreneurship Investigation)**: Presented by Dennis Kahl: Developed with four audiences in mind: 4-H Clubs, Middle and High Schools, Youth organizations and, Community organizations. Entrepreneurship Investigation (ESI): A Holistic Integration of youth community and careers. ESI website https://nmc-server1.unl.edu/esi_flash/
Panel—How Well Do AgLEC Programs Prepare Graduates for their First Position:

**Dana Bailey Hall of McCool Junction:** 2003 graduate in the Agricultural Education Teaching Option, currently serving as an Agricultural Educator in the McCool Junction Public Schools. Presented via telephone: First year at McCool Junction. Commented on how she is doing and how AgEd helped her. Website for first year teachers, communication is good. Lloyd Bell question: Did AgEd prepare you to work with different students? Answer: Yes. Question from Jason Ellis: What would be one or two emerging trends that you see that new teachers will be facing? Answer: Agriculture is changing all the time; getting out into the community. Thinking outside the box; Reaching out to the non-traditional kids to get them involved. Elaine Stuhr comments: I just wanted everyone to know what good things Dana is doing.

**Christin Brown Kamm, formerly of Wisner:** 2002 graduate in Agricultural Journalism, Broadcast Sequence, and the Agriculture and Natural Resources Public Relations Option. Following graduation, she joined the Nebraska Department of Agriculture in Lincoln as Public Information Officer, the position she currently holds. Job duties; public concerns. She spoke about Career Day in CASNR day. She was prepared when she graduated. Her wishes: to be able to take Ag-based public relations classes, she used small percentage of journalism classes, major Ag events planning courses, public relations/advertising classes-design classes, more internships—which help you make your decision on what career path you choose.

Comments/Questions

**Aylssa Smola spoke on leadership:** Two internships is a good idea—event planning would be a good class to prepare you for graduate school—comp class or research class is good.

**Bryttni Westlake of Kinnear, Wyoming:** is a candidate for graduation in May 2008; was not present. Dick Fleming spoke on her behalf: She began her college experience in Wyoming and was attracted to our Leadership offerings in the Agricultural Education—Leadership Option. Miss Westlake enrolled as a junior in Agricultural Education-Leadership Option with a minor in Agricultural Economics. She completed an internship in human resources last summer at Cargill Meat Solutions in Schuyler and will join Cargill following graduation in May. She got involved in the Human relationship program and did internship that lead into a full-time job. The Leadership program helped with this and also her background.

After lunch, Council members proceeded to classroom simulation experience: Libertyville—Barrett came back after simulation for comments and questions.

**Kevin Anderson-Dan Wheeler comments and questions:**
What is the status of the search for Department Head? Three candidates have been interviewed. Search Committee will meet on April 17, 2008 to discuss.

The Council went on record to thank Dan Wheeler for his service as Department Head.

**Members proposed November 5, 2008 for their next meeting.**

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.