

Advisory Board Council Meeting

Monday, October 12, 2009 - 10:00AM - Church of the Brethren - Staunton, VA

Meeting Attendance:

Andy Seibel, Brian Alexander, Chris Atkins, Dana Fisher, Glenn Anderson, Howard Ladewig, Jason Ince, Jeff Wilt, Jennifer Lyons, Jessica Jones, Jessica Waknine, Kevin Keith, Kim Black, Morgan Slaven, Ron Byrd, Ron Daughtry, Russell Jennings, Sally Shomo, Stephen Edwards, Terry Lam, Theresa Lindberg, Todd Mills, and Ted DeLano

Howard Ladewig is filling in for Dr. Rudd until January as the Virginia Tech Agricultural Education Department Head. There will be more budget cuts to come. Virginia Tech Agricultural Education currently has three graduate students and three part time individuals helping 100 days each. The department had a full time FFA and full time curriculum person and no longer has that. The department had a half-time secretary and that position has now been cut. The department now pays for 1/8th of Vicki's salary. Vicki does graduate records and other things for Virginia Tech. The foundation has committed to bringing on Richard Rateau. Rateau is a retired executive from Perdue and has decided he wants to have a second career in leadership. Due to budget cuts, the department was not able to continue Rateau's full time status.

Andy Seibel is currently working in both positions of FFA and curriculum. Currently on Tuesday's, the curriculum team meets together, on Wednesdays, meet with [REDACTED] and Thursday's meet one-on-one with the graduate students. Monday's and Fridays, Andy works on FFA information. The General Assembly goes back into session in January 2010 and hopefully the department will be able to get more funding. Secretary Bloxum wants proof of what is going on in Virginia Agricultural Education. As agricultural educators, we have to come up with proof of what is going on in agricultural education. One of the ways to get this accomplished is changing the instruction model by moving the three graduate students and then creating local program success on the local level. The advisory board needs to come up with a set of core items that need to be accomplished within the locale for meeting Virginia Tech needs by showing the value of Virginia Agricultural Education and FFA. We have to over the next six months talk monetary value of Virginia Agricultural Education and FFA within locales and show the direct relationship the classroom, experiences, and instruction has within the community.

Since the Virginia Agricultural I and II classes are being combined into a single class that all teachers can teach, a course titled Foundations of Agriscience has been developed on a timeline of 140 hours of instructional time, 45 days of instruction for required competencies, and 45 days of instruction to be utilized as best deemed fit by the instructor based on the location of the program, type of program, and needs of the students. The packet is designed to fit a standard 45 minute schedule and/or one block scheduling, where two lessons can be taught in one class period.

There is no textbook adoption at this time for the course, but there can be recommendations. Virginia Tech is trying to invent a scholar site where teachers can go in and download materials from CEV to be used in curriculum and can be manipulated to fit the need of the locale. Glenn Anderson suggested removing timeline from course timeline in the course packet due to variance throughout school systems. Anderson also suggested all current competencies marked with an asterisk are essential, so the competencies in the course packet need to be marked with an asterisk as well as essential to maintain consistency. Jeff Wilt asked what expected outcomes are predetermined for SAE and FFA activity within the course packet information. Jessica Waknine stated the purpose is to show the instructional side of SAE and FFA; what is being taught in the class versus what is being trained after class. Wilt asked if there is any information that can be made available to guidance counselors to help them understand what the pathways are and what course implementation will look like. The department would look further into creating information to distribute to guidance counselors.

Stephen Edwards presented the frameworks for the Virginia SAE recordbooks. The framework of the SAE record book is very simple to where a supervised agricultural experience is incorporated within the Agricultural Education framework and explains what agriculture is about. This framework uses the Fundamentals of Agriscience Exploratory Book which asks students to research various careers and then document what the career is and shadow through the career. Each exploratory type SAE has its own record book. Record books will be available electronically for download and then can be saved on the teacher's station for student use. Criteria to complete the SAE record book must be followed as stated by checklist given in the record book.

For coordination in SAE's, cooperative education is based on 20 students per one release period. Those students being coordinated while participating in SAE's would receive an additional course credit will. Coordinating a student for an SAE is to be done within the program; therefore, Agricultural education students are to be supervised by the agriculture teacher and the business student is to be supervised by the business teacher. The agriculture student is to not be supervised by the business teacher and the business student is to not be supervised by the agriculture teacher. Switching supervisors is a violation of coordination rules set by the Virginia Department of Education. With the block scheduling it would be a challenge, as the teacher, you have to make sure to make weekly contact with each student to assure students are complying with state rules and regulations. If a supervisor, you must know Child Labor Laws and associated codes and adhere to them strictly. If any student is found in violation of Child Labor, local, Virginia or any other laws, the cooperating teacher can be found liable for the given offenses. If students are in a training situation, some codes can be waived, but all situations must be screened.

Jeff Wilt is in the process of planning Virginia Agricultural Education Teacher's Conference for the summer. Data was recorded from a survey distributed to Virginia agricultural education teachers. Based on the survey, the data collected would be used to create and build an agenda by November and get information set in stone by December so information can be distributed to teachers by January before budget crunches occur for what to expect at the summer conference. As a group, the advisory council must help Jeff come up with other activities that will get more teachers involved in the conference and get involved in professional development.

National FFA is requesting to raise dues to \$12. Recommendation must be made about what needs to be done for Virginia Agricultural Education students in the spring if there is an increase in dues that is passed at the National Convention. Andy Seibel made a suggestion to add \$1 of dues to go back to the respective area advisory councils for plaques, awards, pins, etcetera to be used at the area level.

Andy Seibel presented the Landcaster Farmer publication out of Pennsylvania where Virginia has one page of the publication that comes out once a month where every agricultural education student in Virginia will get a free copy. The Virginia FFA New Horizons has about four readers per issue that is looking at Virginia agriculture and Virginia FFA. National FFA has an option where the issue can be placed online. The Virginia FFA will continue to do three-page, sixteen inserts for the future in the FFA New Horizons. For a point of reference, the New Horizons insert issue that is coming out in February 2010 is due at the end of October 2009. Getting the New Horizons insert issues can be difficult based on the timeline for submitting articles, however, unless other information is given, Virginia FFA will continue to submit article submissions for the insert issues. Seibel is working with grant opportunities to cover the cost of publicizing the events and activities of Virginia Agricultural Education and FFA to maintain positive publicity of the Virginia programs.

Andy Seibel reported State Fair contests takes a lot of work and time upfront and at the end. The State Fair is requiring that all student names are reported in advance so they can go and solicit funds for those students so it can be reflected as a statewide event, not just a locale. Encourage students that if they are eligible for student scholarships, apply for all the scholarships they can. During the student recognition dinner at the

State Fair, Officer Flanagan of the Virginia State Police asked the audience to stop and look at the young people in the back and recognize the fact that if it had not been for the blue jacket they are wearing, he would not be the Superintendent for the State Police of Virginia. Tim Kaine, governor of Virginia was also able to reach out and meet the Virginia FFA Association state officers on a one-on-one.

Andy Seibel discussed receiving an email that suggested adding a middle school Agricultural Issues career development event at the upcoming state convention. Kim Black discussed what had been used in her area Middle School Agricultural Issues career development event, including format of objections, event rules, event format, scoring, tiebreakers, and references to the board. Black explained how the middle school Agricultural Issues career development event could be operated and the Massanutten Federation has volunteered to sponsor the career development event if approved. Seibel stated unless a superintendent is found to govern the Agricultural Issues career development event, another middle school career development event must be eliminated to add the Agricultural Issues career development event.

Jeff Wilt moved to add a middle school Agricultural Issues career development event. Russell Jennings seconded the motion.

Dana Fisher moved to amend that if funding and a superintendent can be found, and then approve the career development event. Theresa Lindberg seconded. Motion carried.

Dave Winston inquired about changing the points on the Virginia Dairy Foods career development event so the team problem is worth 50 points instead of 20 points to be in line with National FFA competition regulations.

Jason Ince moved to change the point value of the team problem of the Virginia Dairy Foods career development event from 20 points to 50 points. Theresa Lindberg seconded. Motion carried.

Before two years ago, \$25,000 was being appropriated to send students to National Convention. Changes were made last year after convention that if a sponsor donated an event unless the student competes in the event, then they do not get the money and if it is a substitute, the substitute will not get the money either. There were students that were getting paid sponsorship money to attend National Convention competitions and students did not show up at the competitions. This is brought the change in the way competition sponsorships are allocated and the push for endowment funds. As of today, full sponsorship money for the Meats Team, Agronomy Team, and partial for the Dairy Team.

Scholarships available for students include, the students who complete their Day of Service for the Mills Family Legacy Fund completes their requirements and those students will be cut the check for the \$200 for their scholarship. The Dr. John Hillison Fund is for a student competing in the middle school FFA Quiz Bowl competition and ranks in the top 10% of students that rank in the written essay. The top student in the competition gets \$250 to attend National Convention. The O. Beverly Roller Fund goes to sponsor the public speaking competition. Any extra money left after funding the public speaking competitions from the O. Beverly Roller Funds will go to funding the Parliamentary Procedure competition. The George Seibel Fund is for a student who wants a future in agriculture for continuing education. The Kathy Hively Hughes Scholarship was established in 2008 and endowed in 2008. The Wick Coleman Fund is money endowed toward paying for state degrees. There is an Anonymous Fund that once endowed it is a commitment of \$1000 per year for 10 years to pay for state officer jackets. The 2008-09 Virginia State Officers team decided to travel the state without accepting any funds. Chris Atkins donated all his mileage over his term as Virginia FFA Association State President to be endowed and pay for State Officer travels in the future. FFA Camp has decided to take funds earned and place them into an endowment fund to pay for future trips to FFA Camp.

Money from fruit rebates was used to cover the shortfall of plaques. 80% of the interest will go to the recipient and 20% will be in holds for future market downfalls.

Russell Jennings moved the advisory council endorse the Foundations of Agriscience framework to be used in the new Foundations of Agriscience course. Theresa Lindberg seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Jason Ince moved the advisory council endorse the SAE Record books as is to be used in Virginia agricultural education for middle and high grades. Ted DeLano seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Theresa Lindberg moved to recommend the additional course credit for those students being coordinated in an SAE. Jason Ince seconded the motion. Motion carried.

At the Big E in Springfield, Massachusetts in September, Morgan Slaven served as Ambassador for the Virginia FFA Association. 19 states from Virginia to Canada out east of the Mississippi River were represented at the Big E. It is important that we continue to have our students participate in this activity which could lead to the Big E becoming an endowment so this opportunity can still be offered in the future.

Theresa Lindberg moved to maintain the operating budget with 5% set aside each year for [REDACTED]. Russell Jennings seconded the motion. Motion [REDACTED].

Glenn Anderson reported certification efforts. The benchmark was 50% of the students enrolled as completers would be tested, and of that 50%, 33% would pass. The benchmark is increasing and agricultural education teachers at the high school level will need to give more tests to account for the number of completers and course offerings for certification within the respective programs.

NOCTI exams need to be looked at to see if the blueprint being used matches up to the curriculum that is being taught. Jennifer Lyons asked what would be done for those teachers teaching Veterinarian Science and those students who may need certification in AI and AQD. Anderson stated CEV is working with Texas to develop multiple state tests for students area are completers. Information from CEV is still in process, but could be used to help with certification for given areas. In addition, there is no budget on staff development as of yet, but will be in contact with individuals about that as soon as he gets updated information.

Howard Ledwig addressed the advisory council and stated how impressed he is about how he has heard so many great things about Virginia Agriculture Education. Ledwig also commented about the Commissioner of Agriculture being very impressed and adamant about how the structure of agricultural education is supportive of student achievement. On the other hand, the perception of agriculture from those that are not a part of it is one where people do not understand what agricultural education is about or its importance. Virginia Tech is pushing to have students to enter into Agriscience at the college level. This is where a custom undergraduate degree is created for students who want to learn science, but not be scientists. Andy Seibel was applauded for advocating on behalf of Virginia Agricultural Education and FFA at the university, state and national levels. This type of advocacy continues to be able to draw students into the program and increase the awareness of agriculture. The program has gone from a few students to 83 in three years and indicates steady growth. Ledwig and Rick Rudd have decided that teaching of science and teacher of education is fine, but the main line, or speciality is through collaborative leadership. The undergraduate program in the sciences needs to be built. The Virginia Tech Provost wants leadership to be taught in Agriculture. The Residential Leadership Program has now been placed in the Department of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Ledwig's term as Interim Department Head will last until April 2010. If Rudd wants to come back, he will. If he chooses to be Head of Extension, then a national search for a department head replacement will begin.

Southside Area Concerns:

1. An incident at a federation contest where the contest forester marked a tree with a 16" DBH on the junior forester's tree value portion of the competition because that is what was available within the forestry judging area. The advisor of one of the competing teams had told the students prior that state rules stated no DBH below 10" or above 14" with all even readings would be in the competition. The recommendation made was to either change the DBH readings on the chart used for the state competition to read 8" to 16" DBH's or to eliminate the readings of 8" and 16" DBH's from the chart all together.
 - a. The readings of 8" and 16" DBH's will be eliminated from the chart all together

Northern Area Concerns:

1. The Virginia FFA Association needs to use the National FFA test bank for the Floriculture exam.
 - a. The exam is based on the Virginia curriculum, so all participants have an equal chance.
2. VET Science CDE: The Virginia FFA website contest rules were used to prepare for the contest. Resources need to be posted so teams can have up-to-date information and enough time to prepare?
 - a. The discrepancy will be checked into.

Eastern Area Concerns:

No concerns at this time

Central Area Concerns:

1. More specifications need to be used for Forestry Field Day Saws. Rules need more specific for what can and cannot be used.
 - a. Do not need to spend money on saws that require electricity.
2. Small engines contest quiz is worth 100 points and each question is worth 20 points.

Theresa Lindberg moved to adjourn the meeting. Jason Ince seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica M. Jones