Minutes
Assessment Oversight Committee
Sep 28, 2009

Present: Shane Drefcinski, Margaret Karsten, P.B. Ravikumar, Matthew Roberts, Amanda Tucker, Carlos Wiley

Guests: Michael Compton

1. Members and guests were introduced.
2. Karsten moved and Tucker seconded a motion to approve the minutes of Sep14, 2009. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Michael Compton distributed copies of Ornamental Horticulture Self-Study Review and gave a Power Point presentation of the review to the committee. Major points addressed were as follows:
   a. Mission, Purpose, Goals, and Objectives of the Ornamental Horticulture program were presented.
   b. Program assessment if performed annually and reviewed by members of the Soils, Crops and Ornamental Horticulture Committee. A report with recommended actions is presented to the School of Agriculture Director. An annual review is also presented to the Dean of the College of BILSA and members of the BILSA College Council.
   c. Five assessment tools used were identified: internship evaluations, Senior Exit Survey, Placement Data, Employer Survey of Recent Graduates, and Class Learning Evaluations.
   d. The assessment tools were used to assess the following goals:
      i. Communicate effectively with others both verbally and in writing
      ii. Exhibit working knowledge of temperate zone woody and herbaceous plants as well as plant species used in interior plantscapes.
      iii. Demonstrate an in depth comprehension of the horticultural and biological sciences and possess the ability to apply their knowledge as it relates to ornamental horticulture.
      iv. Possess the ability to think creatively and become able to recognize, analyze, diagnose and critically evaluate problems and practices, and act individually or use a team approach to apply problem solving techniques.
      v. Possess a comprehension of the administrative and managerial skills necessary when managing and/or operating a horticultural business.
      vi. Become courteous, ethical and responsible leaders in society and the ornamental horticulture profession.
   e. Charts of data for each goal’s assessment were presented and discussed. Key outcomes from the assessment are:
      i. Written skills need improvement.
      ii. Significant improvement in knowledge of plant materials through additional course offerings.
iii. Students feel more competent in horticulture science than biological sciences.

iv. Survey data widespread on administrative and managerial aspects.

v. In spite of 21 credits of business and accounting courses, students need to better connect business courses to horticulture business aspects.

vi. Leadership skills can be improved.

vii. Due to assessment, new plant courses have been added, business course need has been identified, International emphasis has been recognized.

viii. Future plans include introduction of landscape construction and design courses, replacing business and marketing emphasis with greenhouse, nursery and garden center management, and modifying student learning outcomes and assessment tools.

ix. Language in assessment surveys has been changed to match assessment language.

x. Potential for international exchange with Norway exits.

xi. Accreditation through “PLANET” being explored – better potential to do so when new courses and future plans identified earlier are realized.

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4. Following the recognition of the presentation as outstanding by Karsten and concurring acknowledgment by the committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

P.B. Ravikumar