



Illinois Leadership Council for Agricultural Education

Promote education in and about agriculture.

Address the changing needs of agricultural education to strengthen its viability and competitiveness to serve industry.

Develop investment opportunities involving human and financial capital for the benefit of all groups having interest in agricultural education.

Thursday, August 29, 2019 - DRAFT Meeting Minutes Richland Community College, Decatur

Present:

Luke Allen	*Jeff Galle	Brodee	*Karen Schieler
*Allyn Buhrow	*Warren Graeff	McCormick	Jay Solomonson
Mindy	*Doug Hanson	Lee Meter	*Tyler Strom
Bunselmeyer	*Ken Hartman	Gage Miller	Erica Thieman
*Dave Cattron	Lane Harvey	Seth Mitchell	JC Walker
Megan Coy	Steve Jacobsen	*Don Moffitt	Jennifer Waters
Kevin Daugherty	*Karen Jones	Brad Pilcher	Collin White
Dean Dittmar	*Chris Kendall	Rod Reich	Mike Zecher
Doug Falk	Lucas Maxwell	Dave Rosch	
Emma Freebairn		Jay Runner	

Via phone:

Jake Butcher	*Al Dietz	John Edgar	Jesse Faber
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*ILCAE Member (12 members)

Chairman Hanson called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

A representative from Richland Community College welcomed the group and shared a variety of ways they are contributing to ag education now and plans for the future.

The state FFA officers gave a brief presentation on the activities they have done this summer. Several new programs have opened up in the Decatur area and in other parts of the state. FFA membership is at an all-time high of 19,099.

Time for public comment was offered. Nothing was brought forward.

The minutes from the last meeting were approved by Allyn Buhrow and seconded by Warren Graeff.

Dave Rosch, director of the new ALEC (Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications) program at the University of Illinois shared the reorganization process of the program, which is now where agriculture teacher education is housed. The process for licensure is not changing – just changing the degree name to agricultural education. There are more than



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50 new students in the program. Anna Ball has been named Associate Dean for the College of ACES. They are actively searching for one ag education faculty member and will be searching for a new faculty person in ag communications soon.

The Pubs Plus website has been reorganized with the closing of ITCS. They are currently working through the legal process to turn over materials to Cutting Edge Curriculum.

Jesse Faber and Jake Butcher provided a legislative update. Anyone who would like to join the legislative committee calls is welcome – let Dean Dittmar or Jesse know to be included. Committee has about 12 conference calls per year.

It was another successful year. The Ag Ed line item was once again put in place. A new ag ed internship program designed for teachers was signed on August 23. ICAE appointments have been made by the governor. The LEAP program continues to be an area of focus.

Dean Dittmar reported that the 365 Campaign has been paid through July. Pins are still available at \$165 or \$365 for teachers receiving additional grant funding.

Gregg Webb with ADM has been working with Butcher and FFA leaders to help prepare FFA members for legislative day – that program has grown and is doing well.

The ICAE report was included in the meeting packet. Governor Pritzker is being more hands on with the appointment process now and that led to some changes on the committee. If people want to attend the upcoming meeting on Sept. 20, let Erica Theiman know so she can let ISBE staff know who to expect. There was group discussion about the appointment process.

Brad Pilcher encouraged ILCAE to make sure our six representatives on ICAE are active and committed members of both groups. Dittmar encouraged ILCAE to think about who from our group we would want to recommend to the governor's office for the next round of appointments.

Doug Falk and Jay Runner with Cutting Edge Curriculum gave a presentation. Mindy McDermott is the third partner. Cutting Edge Curriculum (CEC) is a non-profit organization created to purchase and manage myCAERT. Teachers in all 50 states use myCAERT curriculum. Their main goal is to work with new teachers, but all teachers can benefit. All teachers and student teachers in Illinois have access to five areas of CTE curriculum through ISBE. CEC content is teacher driven and they are taking requests from teachers for lessons they desire and need. Doug Falk encouraged the group to check out their website and lesson plans available.



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State staff needs to create a plan for how to reallocate profits from myCAERT. Discussion around the question of could businesses sponsor curriculum relevant to their industry? (eg: Miller sponsor welding, Farm Credit sponsor business).

Tyler Strom with the Illinois Agrifood Alliance (formerly FARM Illinois) gave a presentation on their new initiative – Future Faces of Food and Agriculture. They are trying to bring together the needs of business and education to bridge the skills gap in the agriculture industry developing from rapid changes in technology right now.

JC Walker gave a presentation on Illinois Virtual School. He currently teaches a veterinary science course through IVS. IVS serves 7000 students each year in 200 different courses, offering AP and elective courses plus regular credit courses. 85 percent of IVS teachers are in the classroom during the day and teach IVS at night. Currently, they are partnered with 25 schools across the state who could not find local teachers to fill desired classes. Walker gave us a demonstration of the vet science course he teaches.

Officers were elected for the 2019-2020 year:

Nominated were: Doug Hanson, chair; Allyn Buhrow, vice chair, and Karen Jones, secretary. Motion made by Warren Graeff to cast a unanimous ballot these officers. Seconded by Ken Hartman. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Dave Cattron and seconded by Ken Hartman to appoint Dean Dittmar as executive secretary. Motion passed

Members with expiring terms were asked if they would consider another three-year term.

Dave Cattron, Warren Graeff, Doug Hanson, Chris, Kendall, and Kaitlin Weitekamp accepted a 3 year term ending June 30, 2022.

Those not in attendance will be asked after the meeting. There are eight spots available, two of which need to come from the ICAE appointee group. There was a discussion about desired diversity on the council, specifically urban vs. rural representation. The group is open to names of more urban individuals.

Jeff Galle and Tyler Strom were in attendance and accepted appointments to a three-year ILCAE term. Dave Cattron moved to elect Jeff and Tyler to a three-year term and Ken Hartman seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Dean Dittmar shared the expenditure of funds for FY19 and the proposed budget for FY20 of the \$1,080,000 portion of the Ag Ed Line Item for the FCAE Project.



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The list of past award recipients was reviewed. Any ILCAE member can nominate individuals for awards.

Mentioned were:

Steve Bridge – Media

John Sullivan - Legislator

Ed Curry – Educator (posthumous)

Sarah Michaels – Media

More nominations are welcome and will be discussed again at our November meeting.

The next meeting will be November 19 at Brandt in the Springfield area.

The January 31 meeting will be at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield in conjunction with the FFA state alumni conference.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 p.m. by Don Moffitt and seconded by Chris Kendall. Motion passed.