

Horticulture Business Partnership Council Minutes

March 29 2017

SC201 6-7:45 pm

Present:

Carol Cloud Bailey

Robert Bowden

Tim McColgan

Sueanna Nelson

Suzanne Prior

George Rogers

Bill Schall

Tim Whelan

Rochelle Wohlberg

George Rogers led the council on a tour of the horticulture facilities: nursery, Medicinal Garden, and Native Plants Garden.

George presented data on spring enrollments, upcoming summer classes and enrollments, and fall term.

This transitioned into a discussion of specific classes and instructors, especially our inability to find a replacement instructor for Irrigation.

Robert Bowden spoke briefly about the Plant Selections for Landscape Situation class he and Rogers have been developing.

Carol Cloud Bailey led an involved discussion on the FL Certified Horticulture Professional class she is teaching, and how that relates to the department's relationship with the FL Nursery, Growers and Landscape Assn.

George described development of our newly resurrected class on computer aided landscape design.

The bulk of the discussion was oriented to a new initiative of the Tree Care Industry Association working with Workforce Development to develop a joint-industry/college training program, at a national level.

After some discussion of history and what form this may take in the future, Robert Bowden raised the concern that this initiative may be at odds, duplicating and possibly offensive to the International Society of Arboriculture's certification program. Extensive pro and con discussion ensued, and the matter remain unresolved, with George agreeing to explore the problem, which could be a deal-breaker. Opinions were polarized as the discussion ended.

The meeting ended with a brief discussion of an upcoming Horticulture Career Info event.