

Agriculture Business/General Agriculture Advisory Committee Minutes
October 3 2022

Members Present: Denise Skidmore, Vikki Dompe, David Sousa, Jean Obad, Ric Kirby, Lucia Farao
Instructors: Kim Donaher, Samantha Bliss (adjunct), Sarah Baskins (adjunct)

Summary of AG Business Program

The initiation of the first semester of an online and in-person degree option for Ag Business was discussed. Students can earn a completely online or in-person or a hybrid degree with the addition of two adjunct instructors Samantha Bliss and Sarah Baskins. The committee agreed that the Ag Safety course would have to be removed in order for students to be able to earn an online degree/certificate.

Questions were answered for the committee members regarding the degree. Topics discussed and brainstormed about included integrating sales and marketing final projects that reflect industry application. Public relations instruction was discussed as a focus based on the most recent employment opportunities.

Social Media was a topic of information as the department is looking to hire a work study student to be the central point of contact to keep the pages and posts updated. Courses and number of students per section were discussed.

It was moved (Denise Skidmore) and seconded (Lucia Farao) to create an Ag Leadership Certificate for students who have completed at least four Ag Ambassador/Ag Leadership Courses (8 units). The motion was discussed and passed with a unanimous vote.

Summary of General Agriculture Program

The General Agriculture Program and proposed changes were reviewed:

General Agriculture (AS) and (CN) Major Core:

• AGAB-05 Agricultural Economics	3 units
• AGAS-01 Elements of Animal Science	3 units
• AGEH-01 Elements of Landscape Horticulture	3 units
• AGMA-01 Equipment Safety	1 unit
• AGMA-05 Agricultural and Industrial Technical Skills	3 units
• AGPS-01 Elements of Plant Science	3 units
• AGRI-10 Agriculture, Environment and Society	3 units
TOTAL	19 units

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The committee moved (Ric Kirby) and seconded (Denise Skidmore) to update the proposed changes to the General Agriculture Program. The motion was discussed and passed by unanimous vote.

Questions were entertained regarding what type of students and career pathway the students are choosing. The faculty answered that a majority of the students graduating with this degree are agriculture education and the small but significant group are PCA and double majors. The committee members deliberated on the potential to offer another degree specific to teacher preparation for agriculture teachers since there is a shortage and a much higher turnover rate. The discussion continued regarding a need to prepare students more in depth with industry standards along with teacher preparation skills. The faculty discussed speaking with the Agriculture Educators at Fresno State, Chico, Stanislaus and Cal Poly, SLO to investigate the need and effectiveness of an AS degree in Agriculture Education.

The committee moved (Denise Skidmore) and seconded (Jean Obad) to develop an Agricultural Education Degree program. The motion was discussed and passed with a unanimous vote.

Discussion continued regarding keeping the General Agriculture Degree and adding the Agriculture Education Degree program. The consensus was to keep both.

The group met back with the entire department committee and shared the information discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.