



WEST HILLS COLLEGE LEMOORE

**Agriculture Advisory Committee
November 29, 2021
ONLINE MEETING VIA SURVEY REQUEST**

Minutes

Members Present: Courtney Blasingame, Doug DeGross, Amy Baker, Dino Giacomazzi, Karrie Crookham, Elizabeth Giannini, Juana Lacy, Breanna Lee, Dusty Ference, Vernal Gomes, Jessica Lawrence, Gladys Worting, Josh Mayberry

Campus Update and Survey Response Request

Kris reported that we have a small but engaged group of students in our Agriculture Business Courses and have had a few completers of our Agriculture Sales and Marketing certificate program. All of them have completed the requisite 3 units of internship, per your recommendation – no easy task in this COVID environment! Additionally, we recently added Microsoft Excel to the program, per advisory recommendation.

Over the last two years, we have been hearing from more and more students in Lemoore with struggles trying to transfer to Fresno State in Ag Majors. Fresno State has encouraged us to develop a generic Agriculture degree to give students an avenue for seamless transfer. This program also provides students an avenue to complete a degree program in agriculture to seek entry-level employment.

PROPOSED NEW PROGRAM - Agriculture AS Degree

<u>Core Courses:</u>	<u>18 units</u>	<u>Select A Specialization</u>	<u>6 units</u>
ASCI 012: Intro to Animal Science	3 units	Ag Business:	
AGBUS 024: Agriculture Accounting	3 units	AGBUS 010: Intro to Ag Business	3 units
SLSCI 021: Soil Science	4 units	AND	
AGBUS 040: Agriculture Economics	3 units	AGBUS 015: Computer Applications	3 units
CRPSCI 001: Intro to Plant Science	3 units	OR	
AG 015X: Occupational Work Ex	2 Units	Ag Mechanics:	
		ELET 001: Basic Electronics	3 units
		AND	
		ITEC 008: Mechanical Systems	3 units
		OR	
		Ag Education:	
		EDUC 1 Intro to Teaching	3 units
		OR	
		Ag General:	
		Lower Division electives	6-10 units
		General Education Breadth	39 units
		Total units	60 units



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We have developed a survey for your review and feedback on the program to move the development forward. Please review the proposed program and indicate your support (or not) for development via this online survey. I respectfully ask for your response by December 15.

There are two courses that Lemoore will not offer and instead advise students to take with Coalinga - Plant Science and Soil Science. We are working with our sister college in Coalinga to offer a lab on the Lemoore campus to make it more convenient for Lemoore students. I think that this is a great way for the two West Hills colleges to partner on programs that serves all students with Agriculture interests.

Survey Responses

13 members responded to the survey request with the following comments and approval for the new program. These members represented the following organizations:

Western Milling	Plant Academy	Dow AgriScience
Diversified Dairy Solutions	Central Valley Meat	JG Boswell
Lemoore High School Ag Dept	JD Heiskell & Co.	Helena Chemical
Giacomazzi Farms	Kings County Farm Bureau	Crop Production Services

This program provides valuable skills and knowledge for entry-level employment.

YES	13
NO	0

Please list any entry-level positions at your organization that students would be prepared for after completing this program.

- A person with these skills could help with office administration, content development for newsletter, social media and our website.
- Account Manager, Account Payable Clerk, Customer Relations.
- Entry level customer service
- Office manager
- Farm management

Please provide any comments relative to your answers above.

- A basis of understanding the function of business in our agriculture industry is necessary in order to provide relatable solutions to clients. A level of understanding to their unique obstacles is vital.

This program provides valuable skills and knowledge for transfer into a variety of ag degrees and career fields

YES	13
NO	0

Please provide any comments relative to your answer above.

- The program provides a wide variety of perspective in the agriculture industry allowing students to determine what areas they enjoy the most.

What is the current projected employment needs for your organization right now?

- Our staff is full at the moment.



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- In 3 - 5 year's we are looking to expand our office administrative staff and hire a Director level position that will be newly created.
- Professional technicians who understand the functionality of an agriculture operation.
- Sales associates that are able to communicate effectively.

Are there industry certifications that you think should be included in this program, or are emerging in your field? Please list below and include any comments to support it.

- Excel proficiency
- Office application
- None

Do you approve the proposed Agriculture AS Degree?'

YES 13
NO 0

Vote: Carried Denied Abstentions

Last Response received, Meeting Adjourned: 12/16/2021 7:32:35 AM