

***Merced College Ag Advisory Minutes.**

Attendance:

- Stephen J. Bell
- Bob Geyer
- Danny Royer

-Program Review Data (Resource Allocation Requests):

Stephen Bell presented items to be purchased for the SOIL/CROP Science Program. After presenting the items listed in the Program Review to the Advisory Committee and going over the needs for these items, Mr. Geyer made a motion that these items are necessary for the instruction of the Program courses. Mr. Royer seconded the motion and the future purchase of the items was so moved.

-Review of Online Instruction:

A conversation was had during this time going over some thoughts amongst the group about the progress made from Online instruction. For the most part, the reception was very positive. It was mentioned that some of the assignments typically given in a face-to-face scenario had to be modified for remote instruction. However, the group all agreed that Online instruction has some real advantages as the students can perform the lab work on their own time. This is especially true for those students having issues with attendance due to work schedules, family issues, or distance. It was also mentioned that Online instruction could take the place of having to offer evening face-to-face courses for SOIL 10, as this can be very challenging for students to consistently attend. A plan to offer more courses through Online and Hybrid instruction especially with SOIL-10 courses should certainly become an immediate reality moving forward. Both Mr. Geyer and Mr. Royer also agreed that the Hybrid course offerings in the Crop Science course offerings can work very well, as the labs must be face-to-face. This is especially important since these students are typically ones that will be going directly into these types of careers.

-Department of Pesticide Regulations (DPR) Review:

Stephen Bell confirmed that the courses necessary to fulfill the PCA unit requirements are now being offered at Merced College. Essentially, a student can now follow the rotation of the required courses, therefore meeting the necessary course and unit requirements needed to complete the PCA license test. This process is an important component of the SOIL/CROP Program as a number of the students majoring in these areas are looking for a future in this type of career work.

-Course Review:

The AGPS 14 and AGPS 13 course curriculums looked good after reviewing the general items covered in each course. The main goal of improvement mentioned amongst the group is correlating the necessities of the course through the addition of a vineyard and a diverse fruit orchard to the Farm Lab. This would allow the students to directly work in the field for specific lab activities as well as view specific management practices.