

Agriculture Advisory Committee Notes

Monday September 24, 5 – 6:30pm

(First 30 mins as large group, Last 60 mins in breakout groups of Ag Bus, Mech Ag, and Ag Plant Science)

SLO Campus, Building 2600, Room 2609

1. Introductions and Purpose of Meeting

Went around in circle and everyone introduced themselves

1. Cuesta’s Agriculture Program Update
   1. 2 Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADT) – Ag Business and Ag Plant Science – “Degree with a Guarantee” – Students that complete required courses with grades of C or higher will be guaranteed admission to a 4-year CSU with an Agriculture Business major
   2. 1 Certificate – Mechanized Agriculture
   3. Current Ag Business course offerings – Introduction to Agriculture Business, Elements of Accounting for Agriculture, Agriculture Sales and Communications, Agriculture Economics, Introduction to Agricultural Computer Applications
   4. Current Ag Plant Science course offerings – Introduction to Soil Science, Introduction to Plant Science, Plant Propagation and Production, Introduction to Viticulture, Plant Identification and Usage
   5. Current Ag Mechanics course offerings – Introduction to Ag Mechanics, Ag Safety, Ag Industrial Power, Farm Power, Machinery, and Safety
   6. **DISCUSSION OF NEW ITEMS:**
      1. USDA National Institute of Food and Ag Grant

Questions about the grant length and purpose

* + 1. Ag Ambassadors

Dr. Sabol talked about how Cal Poly approaches their club, suggestions for collaboration

* + 1. FEED Internship
    2. Spring Plant Sale
    3. Equipment Technician Certificate with Quinn/CAT in the works (see handout)

Discussion of importance of CTE programs, hoping Cuesta offers diesel courses soon, difficult to find qualified employees with these skills, PLC knowledge important

1. Data Discussion
   1. Ag industry trends
      1. What is changing?

Need for stronger technical skills (data analysis, PLC, etc.)

* + 1. Where do you see local Ag jobs increasing? Decreasing? Statewide?
  1. High school population
     1. >2300 SLO County students studying agriculture in high schools
     2. How can we continue to better serve these students?

More marketing to high school counselors, event for high school students interested in agriculture

**Break into smaller groups - Ag Business, Mechanized Ag, and Ag Plant Science**

1. Industry Trends and Students
   1. Where is your industry headed?
   2. How can Cuesta prepare students to meet labor needs?
   3. What specific skills do students need?
   4. What deficits in student skills are you noticing?
   5. What kinds of technology are needed to prepare students for the labor market?
   6. Which additional (Ag Business, Ag Mech, or Ag Plant Science) course offerings need to be added to Cuesta’s current offerings?
2. What can you do to help Cuesta’s Ag programs?
   1. Word of mouth marketing
   2. Consider partnership opportunities between Cuesta and industry
   3. Field trip
   4. CFFA/Ag Leadership speaker