



Agriculture Advisory Committee

Monday November 4, 2019 at 5pm

SLO Campus, Building 2600, Room 2609 (Same room as last year in new building)

- I. Introductions
- II. Program Update
 - a. Existing - 2 Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADT) – Ag Business and Ag Plant Science and 2 Certificates – Mechanized Agriculture and Equipment Technician
 - b. 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
 - c. 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, **Principles of Irrigation**
 - d. Current Ag Mechanics course offerings – Introduction to Ag Mechanics, Ag Safety, Ag Industrial Power, Farm Power, Machinery, and Safety, **Small Engines**
 - e. **NEW:**
 - i. Viticulture Certificate
 - ii. Farm Management Certificate
 - iii. Equipment Technician Certificate
 - iv. Ag Job Shadow Day on January 31, 2020
 1. See email from Amy with sign-up link.
 - v. Five \$1000 Scholarships to Cuesta Ag students transferring
 1. Are you interested in being on the selection committee? Contact me.
 - vi. Bi-annual Plant Sale
 - vii. Successful fundraising
- III. Discussion
 - a. Ag industry trends
 - i. What is changing?
 - ii. Where do you see local Ag jobs increasing? Decreasing? Statewide?
 - iii. Role of Cuesta in Ag? Now? Future?
 - b. Local high school population
 - i. >2300 SLO County students studying agriculture in high school ag programs
 - ii. How can we continue to better serve these students?

Large Group Discussion

- Mechanization all over ag industry
- Irrigation
- Electrical panel, PLCs, blueprint reading
- Troubleshooting
- Understands mechanics and is able to manage process
- Food safety is an increasingly complex area
- Regulatory compliance course?
- Salinas Growers – Food Safety Dept
- Automation – food grade
- Fabrication skills in addition to welding skills – Is Fab in Mech Ag cert?
- Students must be exposed to the latest equipment
- There is a broad gap between student skills and what they need to know
- Need students who are excited to solve problems
- RWQCB compliance

Jobs:

- Technical knowledge important – computer, diagnostic
- Logistics/part ordering
- Robotics – technical skills
- Pump installers
- Practical/technical balance
- Get certified when can
- Farm Supply is training in new ways
- Hemp – legal crop – new business, processors, etc.
- Safety in the workplace (online certs?)
- Communication, crisis communication, soft skills

Farm Management Certificate:

- Does this include Ag Work Experience? It should
- Maybe an Integrated Pest Management course to be added at later date?
- Ag Spanish class? Conversational Spanish? Required? Or elective?
- This is a good idea – will allow employees to move up in their jobs
- I like the classes that are in this certificate. Students will be well rounded.

Viticulture Certificate:

- Glad to see Irrigation class included
- What is in VIT I and II? Is that enough? Should there be VIT III?
- Very important cert given our geographic area.
- Can industry send employees to certain classes or the entire cert?

- Weekend/evening courses? Off season?

Break into smaller groups

1. Review Cuesta's current Ag Mech/Ag Business/Ag Plant Science offerings (see handouts for Mechanized Ag certificate, Equipment Technician certificate and Ag Business Transfer Degree, Farm Management certificate, Viticulture certificate).
 - a. How are these preparing students for the workplace?
 - b. What should be changed in order to do that more effectively?
 - c. Is there a different degree/certificate that should be created? Which one and what courses? Tell us more about the industry need in this area.
2. What specific skills do students need?
3. What deficits in student skills are you noticing?
4. What kinds of technology/equipment are needed to prepare students for the workplace?
5. What can you do to help Cuesta's Ag programs?
 - a. Sign up for Ag Job Shadow Day (see email with link from Amy)
 - b. Word of mouth marketing
 - c. Consider partnership opportunities between Cuesta and industry
 - d. Field trip
 - e. Ag Ambassador speaker

Notes from Mechanized Ag Conversation:

Mechanized Agriculture:

1. May be a few too many units for a certificate program
2. Should be in and out in one year. Approximately 18 units ideal
3. Tractor class
 - a. Units seem like a lot for semester to

Issues with Ag Industrial power course

- a. Prerequisite was causing issues
- b. Now removed
- c. Diesel class
- d. Run auto and Ag together to get enough students in. Cross list. Need to adjust units to make them equivalent. Need to work with curriculum to make this happen. Bump the 3 in auto to a 4 in mechanics
- e. Holding some students back from the certificate

- f. Should fill this year

Equipment Technician

- 5. Pretty hefty. Very similar to Reedley College
- 5. Partnership with Quinn or John Deere? Would add a lot of credibility to the program and make it MUCH more attractive to students/increase job prospects.
- 5. Can it be broken down into electrical, fluid, engines? Break it into two of three separate certificates. Stackable certificates.
 - a. Make it a degree or need to break it down.
 - 1. Would a partnership help get kids in the door?
 - 2. Cohort model? Would this help get kids through?
 - a. Some students may not be able to do this because of full time work
 - b. Allow students to self-select
 - c. Piece-meal makes it tough for students to get through
 - d. Capture students who might otherwise go to to UTI or Wyotech
 - e. Get a cohort who wears uniforms and does it together. 8 hours a day. 5 days a week.
 - f. Makes it a serious program and will help increase graduation rates.

Skills that students need moving forward:

- 1. Attention to detail

Have Justin Pichard at Paso present at CATA in spring.

Work more with local high schools such as Nipomo & AG to teacher courses at the high school campuses after school.