

Minutes

Ventura College AG Advisory Board Feb. 28th Meeting Ventura College – Guthrie Hall 4:00-6:00pm

4:10pm	Welcome Introductions	Dorothy Farias Self-Introductions
4:25pm	Working Dinner	
4:40pm	Role and Function of VC AG Advisory Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Focus that agriculture is alive and well and has career pathways- Two programs<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Agribusiness – Curriculum approved by state- Plant science – in process of approval- Associates degrees and certificates of achievement both available- Articulation with CSUs and UC Davis- Fall Schedule (target incoming HS student and incumbent workers, offer in evenings, modular once a week, hybrid to reduce on campus meeting requirements)- Intro to Ag business- Ag Economics- Ag Computer Applications- Ag Accounting/Lab- Plant propagation/Lab- Soil Science/Lab- Plant ID Fall Specimen/Lab <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Luis Suggested – Ag Law/Risk Minimization course<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Initial goal is to have all courses work toward degree. Supplemental courses to be added (ie. Regulation and compliance course)✓ Brian Cook asked if there is HR course in another division with Ag specialty. Goal to add ag related classes in business, food safety courses.✓ Annika Forrester suggested to be added as a member of this VC board by Griff Barkley – he wants coordination between district contract ed program and VC ag program.✓ Dan added that the ag supervisor course started at VC as a pilot. Brought someone in from district to run not-for-credit/contract ed portion and she runs it now. Goal for VC is to test course to determine if enough enrollment to support it as a non-credit, then get state approval for the course that will then be free tuition for participants. Overall goal is to lead students into an official state approved/transcript earning program (credit or non-credit) that will support industry goals.	Dorothy Farias Dan Kumpf Dorothy Farias Dorothy Farias

- ✓ Pilot program was successful in showing that there is demand. VC wants to offer it at lower cost and have it count for credit for completers.
- ✓ Proposed Intro to Animal Science GE course, Intro to General AG (dual enrollment with Santa Paula HS – Laurie Arnold SPUSD collaborator) Fall 1919 or Spring 2020
- ✓ Need support with plant science – seeking funding and instructor expertise
 - Possibility to run at East Campus
- ✓ Brett Chandler recommended FGL as resource for expertise.
- ✓ Invited Board to speak to students – share career pathway stories
 - VC students – first generation college attendees, underserved populations.
 - Brian’s question: Is it helpful to have members of the produce world at visits to HS.
 - Laurie – students don’t have a concept of what ag careers look like. Hearing industry expert stories is very helpful.
- ✓ John Chamberlain recommended having students attend trade shows, other events. Dorothy pointed out that conferences that have been attended were because they were free.
- ✓ Before PMA – Limoneira will host a sustainability conference in October for pre-attendees.
- ✓ Biggest concern for VC ag program is resources. Neglected facilities.

History of VC AG Program

Goals of Mission of VG AG Program

Update on current status of VC Agriculture Program

(see Program Handouts)

- Ag Business AS-T, Certificate of Achievement (COA)
- Plant Science AS-T, COA
- Dual Enrollment Ag Bus. Pathway with Santa Paula HS
- Student Trips (taken and planned)
- Recruitment Efforts
- VC Ag Facilities
 - Orchard Renovations
 - Greenhouse
 - Equipment and Supplies

5:00pm

Identify Needs and Set Priorities

Members

- What changes are occurring in the local Ag industry?
- How can the VC AG program reflect the changes and needs of industry?
- Suggestions on program direction
 - Courses
 - Certificates
 - Degrees
 - Field Trips
 - Internships/Jobs
 - Scholarships
 - Current industry employee education opportunities
- Funding and Resource Needs
- Equipment
- Shopping list included in Advisory Board packet
- Is it easier to have cash or what?
- ✓ Anne King – college gets allocation at state (same for English student and Ag student)
- ✓ Coble together federal funding, private funding with the small general funding.
- ✓ Community colleges get 9% of Higher Ed public funding but serve 50% of public Higher Ed students in CA
- ✓ Donations to VC Foundation should be identified as specifically for Ag. Then monies go directly to Ag program without restrictions.
- ✓ Federal funds have restrictions for use.
 - Industry collaborations
 - Mission offer to plant 1-acre avocado orchard

- ✓ Griff Barkley requests a working budget so Board can see how they can help rather than doing piecemeal donation.
- ✓ Dorothy explained budget is in the works and will be made available.

- ✓ Needs for Adjunct Faculty funds – enrollment numbers don't justify college use of funds for new faculty.
- ✓ Outreach needed to increase enrollment,

- ✓ Anne – philanthropy will further the goals and sidestep some bureaucracy

- ✓ Brett - Horticulture would also need course enhancement – just working in fixed environment instead of open field. Nutrient, water management, plant pathology needs.

- ✓ Dorothy – possible to bring back greenhouse course. Willing to get all courses approved and have them waiting in the wings.

- ✓ Brian requested email into description of VC Ag program to share.

- ✓ Laurie – present to HS to raise enrollment

- ✓ John Chamberlain – promotional video
- ✓ Griff – what is current enrollment capacity? Can't actually fill all courses because one faculty member can't teach all courses.
- ✓ Keith reinforced request for budget and said this board can afford to support it.
- ✓ Luis recommended that board reach out to colleagues to support VC Ag program.
- ✓ Griff – working professionals is low-hanging fruit to increase enrollment
- ✓ Dorothy will provide Fall schedule to board for sharing. – Project-based, real world learning.
- ✓ Griff – have Dorothy speak at seminars for growers
- ✓ Keith – any press releases? Student intern just starting will start working on this. No Ag website yet.
- ✓ John Chamberlain – put up wix site (website) free, quick. Board provide support for program to get this up and running. Link district website to it when it finally comes around.
- ✓ Dan – website must stay in campus page, but a consultant can be brought in to design and get it running.
- ✓ Dorothy – working on a press kit, just missing a landing site to direct interested parties.
- ✓ Griff – what's the process for expanding when enrollment is up? How does board support it?
- ✓ Funding will then bring another faculty. Facilities remains a limiting factor. John Chamberlain mentioned ways to expand in east county.
- ✓ Dedicated vehicle for Ag program would be a boost.

5:45pm

Summarize Discussion

Focusing on priorities to avoid spreading program too thin.

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Priorities Moving Forward

Budget

- Needs
- Wishlist
- 2-3 year plan (ultimately 5 year)
- Cross-discipline academics (HR, ACCTG, Finance, Leadership)

Dorothy Farias

- Current allocations (categorical)

Adjunct funding

- Courses needed for
- Minimum qualifications for instructor/specialties

Trends

Logistics/supply chain

- Substrate
- Food Safety
- Foodservice
- Grocery/retail
- CEA
- PCA, CCA

Action Items

- Companies share strategic plans and trends for hiring/training needs
- Who to invite to join Advisory Board? Small enough to be manageable, large enough for extensive reach. Board members can recommend new members to invite.
- Invite Dorothy to speak at chambers of commerce, industry and trade board meetings.
- Board members serve as ambassadors
- John Krist provide info for press release – Dorothy email out
- Dorothy write letter/vision statement to provide with budget.

Next Meeting – potential dates

Thanks and Appreciation

6:00pm

Adjournment

Dorothy Farias

Attendees:

1. Keith Barnard – Mission Produce
2. Brian Cook – Pete’s Living Greens
3. John Chamberlain – Limoneira
4. Brett Chandler – Associates Insectary
5. Mike Richardson – Quality Ag
6. Luis Calderon – Reiter Affiliated
7. John Krist – Ventura County Farm Bureau
8. Griff Barkley – Barkley Insurance
9. Laurie Arnold – Santa Paula Unified School District
10. Dan Kumpf – Dean, VC Sciences Division
11. Anne King - VC Foundation
12. Gerardo Pantoja – VC Foundation
13. Jennifer Garner – VC Biotech Program

Unable to attend:

Craig Underwood – Underwood Ranches/Farms
Nancy Merlino – Cal Poly Pomona ABM Dept
Alex Flores – Santa Paula High School Ag Dept