**VENTURA COLLEGE**

**Minutes of Agriculture Advisory Board Meeting**

**Date: Wednesday, May 5, 2021**

**Zoom Meeting**

**Present:** Jose Antonio Gomez, Annemick Schilder, Gerry Pantoja, Dorothy Farias, Felicia Dueñas, Laurie Arnold, Keith Barnard, Brian Cook, Raquel De Los Santo, Blane Schloo, Anne King

**Recorder:** Eileen Crump

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| **Agenda Item** | **Summary of Discussion** | **Action (If Required)** | **Assigned to:** |
| Call to order | The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m. |  | Dorothy Farias |
| New Agriculture Department | Agriculture Department includes:   1. Agriculture Programs    1. Ag Business    2. Plant Science    3. Food Safety    4. Ag Field Supervisor    5. Veterinary Assistant/Technician Programs 2. Water Science Program   Dorothy Farias was elected as the Department Chair to oversee the Agriculture Department. |  | Dorothy Farias |
| New Agriculture Department Logo | Created by graphic designer Nick Chavira.  Symbols represents all the Agriculture Programs.   * Tree - Plant Science * Microscope - Food Safety * Fruits - Agricultural Business * Animal silhouettes – Veterinary Technician |  | Dorothy Farias |
| Agriculture Program Update | Degrees & Certificates Programs  Associate's Degree (AS)   * Agriculture Business – Associate Science Transfer (AST) * Plant Science (AST) * Veterinary Technology (F20) * Food Safety (F21)   Certificate of Achievement (COA)   * Plant Science – 21 units * Food Safety (Fall 21) – 18 units * Veterinary Assistant (F20) * AG Business (Fall 22) – Voted and approved to add to VC AG Program   Certificate of Completion (COCN)   * Food Safety (Fall 21) – Non-Credit, all courses online except Food Microbiology * Ag Field Supervisor (Fall 21) – Taught Bi-lingual, Non-Credit – 3 classes. | **Decision made to update** The following degrees/certs to update ESRM V11 (Soil Sci) course reverting back to its original course ID of AG V04:   * Ag Bus AS-T * Plant Sci AS-T * Plant Sci COA   + Also adding AG V21, V22 and V32 as optional courses in COA * Food Safety AS * Ag Bus COA   + Applying for F22 Curriculum Approval   (Suggestion by DM Farias, seconded by A. Schilder and  approved by advisory board members present) | Dorothy Farias |
| AG Courses Offered Fall 2020-Spring 2021 | Fall 2020 & Spring 2021 Courses:   * AG V01 – Ag & Society – New GE course * AG V06 – Plant Science – GE course * AG V10 – Agriculture Business * AG V12 – Agriculture Economics – GE course * AG V13 – Computer Applications in Agriculture – summer semester * AG V43 – Plant ID/Fall Specimens – New GE course   Spring 2021 Courses:   * AG V14 – Agricultural Accounting * AG V30 – Plant Propagation * ESRM V11 – Soil Science – GE course * AG V43 – Plant ID/Spring Specimens – New GE course * AG V01 – AG & Society (Also taught at Camarillo High School/Dual Enrollment) GE course * AG V46/N136 – Introduction to Food Safety – Credit and Non Credit (Overview course for those interested in studying Food Safety.)   Summer 2021   * AG V61 – Introduction to Animal Science – Transferable New GE Course, can be used as part of the Agriculture elective courses. (Developed for students not interested in the Veterinary Technician program.) |  | Dorothy Farias |
| New AG Courses for Fall 2021 | New Courses Fall 2021   * AG V21 – Intro to Integrated Pest Management (Approved for Fall 2021, but not scheduled to be offered yet)   + Added to Plant Sci COA under Optional/Additional Courses * AG V22 – Intro to Plant Pathology - New GE course (Approved for Fall 2021, but not scheduled to be offered yet)   + Added to Plant Sci COA under Optional/Additional Courses * AG V04 – Soil Science (Formerly ESRM V11) GE course   + Updated All AS-T degrees and COAs to reflect change from ESRM back to AG V04     - Will appear in Fall 2022 catalog as AG V04 * AG N150 – HR for AG Field Supervisors * AG N151 – Ag Laws & Regs for Field Supervisors * DM V11 – Intro to Ag Heavy-Duty Diesel Repair (Approved for Fall 2021, but not scheduled to be offered yet) * DM V45 – Heavy-Duty Diesel Powertrains (Approved for Fall 2021, but not scheduled to be offered yet) |  | Dorothy Farias |
| AG Course/Program Enrollment Data | Data from the last three academic years indicates that the number of students enrolled in agriculture classes are fluctuating due to the program being relatively new.  Plant Science classes have high enrollments. Agriculture Business classes have low enrollment, so there is a marketing campaign to help increase enrollment. The marketing campaign advertises locally and statewide since classes are online. Possible cause of low enrollment is fraudulent students’ enrollments. There will be another social media campaign in fall 2021 to help increase enrollment. | **UPDATE:**  **Fall 2021 Enrollments for both Plant Science and Ag Business are Strong and HIGHER than last 3 years in all Courses offered Fall 2021!** | Felicia Dueñas |
| Adjacent Advisory Boards | * Veterinary Technology Program (required for Accreditation) * Agriculture Field Supervisor |  | Felicia Dueñas |
| Program Graduate Feedback | Maribel Saucedo, a graduate of the Ventura College Agriculture Program, said she appreciates the opportunity that the Agriculture Program gave her to engage with agriculture industries, attend field trips and tours. Maribel said the Ventura College courses prepared her for classes at Fresno State where she is currently majoring in Agriculture Business. She attributes her current job at Associate’s Insectary with a Ventura College Agriculture industry partner as a result of being active in VC’s Ag program.  Cassandra Martinez, a graduate of the Ventura College Agriculture Program, is currently attending Cal Poly SLO. Cassandra is grateful for her courses that prepared her for the classes at Cal Poly. The Agriculture Program gave her real world experiences. She enjoyed all the field trips and activities provided by the Agriculture Department. Cassandra wants the Advisory Board to know that the Ventura College Agriculture caliber of classes are on par with or better than those at Cal Poly. Cassandra said that saving money attending Ventura College made it easier to transfer to Cal Poly SLO. |  | Dorothy Farias |
| Ventura College Avocado Learning Lab | The Grand Opening for the Avocado Orchard took place in December 2019. The Grand Opening was featured in:   * The Packer * NPR-KCLY * VC Report |  | Dorothy Farias |
| Lab/Facility Technician | The Lab/Facility Technician Position will be posted by May 2021. (Start Date July 1, 2021)   * Responsibilities:  1. Care and maintenance of lab facilities. 2. Avocado orchard upkeep. 3. Assist with lab preparations. 4. Overseeing student workers   **UPDATE: Hired Plant Science Lab Tech to start Sept 1 2021** |  | Dorothy Farias |
| Events & Developments | Fall 2019 Events   * CTE Open House October 2019 * PMA Fresh Summit * Fresno State CC AG Leadership Conference * Food Safety Trainings: * FSVP (November) * HACCP (December) * Ventura County High School Recruitment * Local Field Trips * Limoneira * San Miguel Produce * Associates   Spring 2020   * New Plant Science Instructor: Deanna Vega (Teaches 1-2 courses/semester: AG V06, AG V30, AG V42, AG V43) * Santa Paula High School Dual Enrollment   AG V10 (Was canceled in April due to Covid.)   * Student Trips * World AG Expo – February 2020 * AG Ambassador Conference at Cal Poly (Jan 2020)   Fall 2020   * Cal AG Leadership Conference (October 2020) Virtually hosted by Chico State * Career Pathways Panel (Webinar) * Ventura County Farm Day Virtual Tours (November 2020)   Spring 2021   * World Ag Exp (Virtual, February 2021) * AG Ambassador Conference (April 2021 Virtual, hosted by SLO) * Ventura College Career Fair (Virtual) |  | Dorothy Farias |
| Website Redesign & Social Media Campaign | Agriculture Department webpage under construction. Each agriculture program will have a landing page.   * Agriculture Business * Plant Science * Food Safety * Agriculture Field Supervisor * Veterinary Technology   Webpage content for each landing page/program will include the following:   * Program Learning Objectives * Sample Jobs/Careers * Degree/Certificate maps for each program listed on individual pages. * Two-year schedule of specific course offerings. * Links to 4-year programs for transfer opportunities. (For Ag Bus/Plant Sci) | Advisory members please review Agriculture webpages and give feedback to Dorothy.  https://www.venturacollege.edu/departments/academic/agriculture | Dorothy Farias |
| Resource Needs | Department Funding Purchases:   * Tools, Equipment, Outdoor Lab Supplies * Classroom/Instructional Supplies * GoPro camera used by instructor Dee Vega to record lab assignments. * Take home lab kits for remote learning. * Gator attachments purchased. * Agriculture Tractor repairs (used in avocado orchard).   Technology upgrades   * 14 iPads with cases and keyboards * ECT 8 Classroom Projector upgrade   Hiring:   * Food Safety Instructor in Agricultural Part Time Fall 2021 (Will be hiring multiple instructors)   + Still Open - Link to job posting: [**VCCCD AG P/T Faculty Openings**](https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/vcccd/academic?keywords=agriculture)  Agriculture Field Supervisor (Bilingual) Fall 2021 Instructor In Agricultural Business, Bilingual (Non Credit Instruction) Part Time **Update: Hired 2 instructors for P/T pool with 1 instructor starting in Aug 2021**  Facility Upgrade Goals:   * Replace damaged Greenhouse with new structure. * Hoop House (Donation) * ECT 8 Classroom upgrades (Tech upgrade completed Fall 2020) * Create Lab Space at Ventura College East Campus   Funding for students   * Field trips * Conferences * Outreach & recruitment |  | Dorothy Farias |
| Industry Collaboration Needs | Resource needs for VC Ag Facilities   * Dual Enrollments and High School Recruitment * Guest Speakers * Field Trips * Internships * Scholarships * Career Fair * Department Open House * Current industry employee education opportunities * Community outreach/collaboration |  | Dorothy Farias |
| Future Program Direction | * Agriculture interdisciplinary collaboration with Manufacturing and Diesel Mechanics. Will provide short courses in CR/Non-credit format in areas linked to AG Mechanics, Equipment, Systems, Welding  1. Agriculture Equipment/Heavy Machinery 2. Mechanization/Fabrication   Advisory members gave positive feedback in developing these programs. Developing additional pathways in Agriculture will give students more career options. These courses will be under the Agriculture Department.  Discussion regarding Ag Mechanics courses/program – concerns raised from Diesel Advisory board regarding conflicts among industry partners.  To provide more separation between existing DM program and new Ag Mechanics courses/program, suggestion made to rename Ag Mechanics courses under the AG discipline, instead of Diesel (DM). Also will help with high school Ag students interested in pursuing Ag Mech degrees/certificates.  Likewise point raised that vast majority of Community College Ag Mechanics/Technology programs are under/tied to the Ag discipline.   * Pest Control Advising (PCA) (Industry partners see a local need) * Certified Crop Advising (CCA) (Industry partners see a need) * Irrigation science * Hydroponics * Greenhouse * Nursery/Horticulture * GIS/Drone Tech * Ag Science * Logistics/Supply Chain Management * Import/Export   New programs recommended by Advisory board members:   * Seed Testing/Plant breeding * Water Irrigation Management/Water Resource Management * Viticulture * Meteorology * Organic Production   Short courses (non-credit) geared specifically to industry.  Potential Food Safety Symposium for industry. | **Decision made to change discipline name from DM (Diesel Mechanics) to AG (Agriculture)** **for Ag Mechanics courses under development**    (Suggestion by DM Farias, seconded by K. Barnard and  approved by advisory board members present)  DM Farias will work with B Schloo to rename the current DM Ag Mech Courses  DM Farias will work this Fall 2021 to submit program proposal for Certificate in Crop and Pest Advising for approval to start Fall 2022. Also will work with state DPR to add qualifying courses to the list for approval as part of PCA requirements.  DM Farias will also explore potential new course offerings in the areas of Irrigation, Water Resource Mgmt, Organic/Sustainable Ag. Will also evaluate current AG Business courses for inclusion of topics such as Supply Chain Mgmt, Logistics and Import/Export | Dorothy Farias, Blane Schloo |
| Adjournment | Adjourned 5:35 p.m. |  | Dorothy Farias |