

Call to Order: 5:02 PM - Vincent Sorena, Ag Advisory Chair

Welcome and Introductions

Welcome: Lindsay Ono, Ag Department Chair and Vincent Sorena, Ag Advisory Chair

Thank you for coming to this meeting. Thank you, Nicol, for organizing the meeting location and appetizers.

Members in attendance:

Renaldo Arroyo	Charlie Garcia	Rebecca Murillo	Matthew Riley
Laura Boots-Haupt	Jennifer Jett	Steve Murray	Megan Rios
Mayra Cash	Sophia Marin	Lindsay Ono	Nicol Silva
Gregg Cluff	Chris McCrow	Daniel Palla	Vincent Sorena
Allie Cushnyr	Richard McCrow	Dominic Patino	Luca Sorena
Russ Dickson	James McEnroe	Rose Rakow	Jalisca Thomason
Daran Francis	Mikey Mejia	LeAnn Riley	John Tolly

Approval of Agenda

M/S Motion and Second: Jalisca Thomason / Daniel Palla – Vote: Unanimous approval. Motion passes. Approved.

Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

M/S Motion and Second: Daniel Palla / Gregg Cluff - Vote: Unanimous approval. Motion passes. Approved.

Department Updates

Campus Reorganization - Richard McCrow, Agriculture Dean of Instruction

Dean McCrow, thanked the group for being the year's past Ag Dean set to end June 30th due to campus reorganization of departments and pathways. Campus-wide restructuring of Deans and Pathways will bring Agriculture, Nutrition Culinary Arts and the new major Hospitality into a pathway.

The new Agriculture Dean of Instruction: Jennifer Jett introduced herself. She will be in charge of the ANCA pathway and Dean of Business.

Enrollment Trends and Student Demographics – Lindsay Ono

Fall 2024: 111 Ag Classes 1,618 students enrolled

Spring 2025: 152 Ag Classes 3,153 students enrolled

Summer 2025: 46 Ag Classes 827 students enrolled

Annual Totals: 309 Ag Classes 5,598 Students enrolled.

Fall enrollments may have been lower due to Dr. Jim Selgrath being on sabbatical before retirement.

Faculty and Staffing Updates – Lindsay Ono

- The Ag department has 14 Full-time faculty; 17 Adjunct faculty; 17 Dual enrollment faculty; 1 Program Manager; 2 Agriculture Technicians
- Welcomed new Program Manager: Nicol Silva
- Announced our new Ag Business Instructor hire: Natalie Schuessler She comes from the high school ranks and will work with Ag Business and Ag Education. She is replacing Dr. Jim Selgrath and will begin in the fall.
- Hiring Needs: Adjunct Ag Mechanics and Ag Business instructors

Facilities and Equipment Updates – Lindsay Ono

- Ag Building Topping-Off Ceremony – April 10, 2025
- Greenhouse completed and undergoing operational evaluations. Checking for problems.
- Ag Building completion April, 2026

Department Event Highlights – Lindsay Ono

- **CATA Mid-Winter Conference**
 - Talked about Mid-Winter CATA Mid-Winter Conference – December 5–7, 2025
 - Attracting 65 Ag faculty and administrators from across California.
 - Karen Ross, California Secretary of Agriculture was the keynote speaker.
 - Thanked our industry partners who led tours: Tasteful Selections, Bolthouse Farms, 9LS.Solutions, RedHouse Beef; Tejon Ranch Conservancy, Wonderful Laboratories & Nurseries and J. G. Boswell Company.
- **BC Rodeo Team**
 - Highlighted the accomplishments of the BC Rodeo Team led by Julie Beechinor.
 - Their first rodeo in 2023 was voted best college rodeo.
 - First year coaches Laramie and Vail Collins were awarded Coaches of the Year (2024–2025) for the NIRA West Coast Region.
 - Sebastian Bautista qualified for the National Rodeo Finals CNFR (3rd in NIRA West Coast Region)

Ag Programs and Curriculum – Lindsay Ono

- Agriculture Animal Science, Agriculture Business, and Agriculture Plant Science ADT revisions were approved by the State Chancellor's Office.

Advisory Board Approval of Updated Programs

The following programs were discussed for advisory approval to send documentation of minutes for recommendation of acceptance to the regional consortium for career education program approval.

Animal Science – Registered Veterinary Technician Certificate of Achievement - Dr. James McEnroe

Advisory Discussion:

The RVT program Registered Veterinary Technician Job Skills Certificate is needing to add a Microbiology course (3 units) to meet California Veterinary Medical Board (CVMB) requirement changes. Due to the additional units, a Certificate of Achievement was recommended.

Industry needs RVTs and a certificate of achievement will be beneficial to the students and our regional veterinarians and their facilities. A question was asked about distinguishing this program from the other vet assistant programs that are offered by other educational operations. It was noted that this program gives students the educational requirements to test for the state RVT licensure, while the others are designed to be veterinary assistants, not requiring the extensive educational background and 2-years of work experience. The meeting had numerous veterinarians present and the program has a strong industry presence.

Dr. McEnroe worked with CVMB and curriculum members to create a class that would be acceptable for the RVT requirements. The microbiology class has already been written and submitted to college curriculum and will be available in the future.

Advisory members recommended that this certificate of achievement become approved.

Motion: Motion to approve the changes to the Registered Veterinary Technician Job Skills Certificate with the addition of the microbiology class be added and changing the job skills certificate to a Certificate of Achievement.

M/S Motion and Second: Daniel Palla / Allie Cushnyr

Vote: Unanimous approval. Motion passes.

Forestry - FORE – Urban Forester Degree - Dr. Renaldo Arroyo

Advisory Discussion:

The Forestry program is developing a new Urban Forestry associate's degree. Forestry is thought of as lumber harvests and forest management. Urban forestry is the management of trees in the urban setting. California communities are also growing into the urban-wildland interface. These are places where communities are developed next to wildland regions. The program will look at how we managed the trees in the communities for tree health, aesthetics, planning and fire protection.

It was asked if this would also include utility vegetation management. The Kern Community College District (KCCD) has a Utility Line Clearance Arborist training program. The instructors would work with the district program.

The degree would be a cross-discipline degree, using classes from Forestry, Horticulture, and Plant Science. This class would also not require additional instructors or funding to support the program because many of the classes and labs already exist.

Motion: A motion to approve and develop the Urban Forestry associate's degree.

M/S Motion and Second: Allie Cushnyr / Dominic Patino

Vote: Unanimous approval. Motion passes.

Industry Partner Feedback and Discussion

Industry Employers Mikey Mejia – Job Development Specialist

Seasonal Workforce Needs

- Steve Murray - Murray Family Farms reported a recurring need for 80+ seasonal employees each fall.
- There is strong interest in building a more intentional partnership with Bakersfield College to prepare students for these roles and create a more reliable local labor pipeline.
- Industry would like to see students with real-world exposure before applying—prepared, punctual, and aware of expectations.

Classroom-to-Field Connections

- Proposal for “*Think Tours*”—coordinated site visits to industry locations (starting with Murray Family Farms) to connect students directly with prospective employers.
- These tours would expose students to workplace expectations, seasonal employment opportunities, and help them make informed career choices – plus get them immediate work in AG.
- Consider pairing these visits with faculty presence and reflection assignments to make them academically meaningful.

Curriculum and Program Opportunities

- Agriculture Entrepreneurship: Partners stressed the need for training in small business creation, financial literacy, and innovation within ag-related industries.
- Develop a class in legislative document reporting that teaches smaller farm businesses how to complete governmental documentation.
- Regulatory Agriculture: Strong interest in students who understand compliance, permitting, and agricultural law. A possible *AS Degree in Ag Law & Regulation* was discussed.
- Water Management & Policy: Called out as a central issue that “defines the landscape” of California agriculture. Industry needs graduates who understand water rights, policy, and resource management.

Faculty-Industry Collaboration & Continuing Education

- Industry participants suggested faculty attend agriculture conferences *alongside* employers.
- Partnered conference attendance would strengthen college-industry ties, expose faculty to evolving challenges, and support relevant professional development.
- This kind of collaboration builds trust and keeps instruction aligned with industry needs.

Board and Institutional Support

- Encouragement to “leverage the board more” to support these priorities and elevate agriculture in institutional planning.
- Suggested more frequent engagement, possibly through individual program-level meetings to better track industry shifts.

- The ask: expand Bakersfield College's institutional response to workforce demand, modernize agriculture training, and embed career-connected learning throughout AG programs.

New Business

- No new business.

Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

Next Meeting: we will have a Fall 2025 meeting. The date will be announced at a later date.

Meeting adjourned - 6:35PM

Agriculture Department Meeting April 19, 2024, 10:30-12:30

Welcome

This is Heather's last meeting as Department Chair

Friendly text reminders to your Faculty Chair are appreciated :)

Guest Updates

Mikey – Research interns do not need a formal paper or presentation, contact Mikey for more information. Vista Consulting Specialty Crop Grant is being developed for local internships for paid interns at college sites and with industry partners.

Counseling – Encourage students to register for summer and fall asap. Students close to completion need to meet with Tori to fill out the form to participate in commencement.

Extenuating Withdrawal (EW) - Faculty must provide a last date of attendance. Student must request before the last date of the semester and will not be eligible if they take the final exam. Grade change forms may be refused by faculty.

Jessica – Sign-up for and join commencement. General Funded Agriculture Technician position has been requested for Delano. Please respond to emails from A&R regarding upcoming audit.

New building naming rights

Cheryl Scott

Growing Spaces

Regenerative Farm (Eddie) - Welcome to Eddie, the new agriculture technician in Delano. Thank you to Matt for coordinating the donation of the compost for the farm. Will be meeting to start irrigation install next week. Currently planning out summer crops and cover cropping areas. Will be hiring a student worker.

Farm (Daniel) - Farm is looking great.

Edible Garden (Stacey) - 40lbs of strawberries donated to pantry. Donating greens to next week's entree to employment dinner. Pumpkins have been planted.

Grants

CNAP (Jim, Jalisca) - Two students will be interning during the summer at Scripps. Need research ideas for the summer interns.

Specialty Crop Grant (Greg) - no updates

CalFire – Potential new grant, in application process.

Projects and Events

Farm Bureau Golf Tournament, April 29th (Heather) - Renaldo is organizing volunteers.

Agriculture Banquet, April 25th (Greg) - Next Thursday! Need forestry and animal science students of the year to return Greg's email. Faculty need to respond to calendar invite.

Stem Career Expo, April 26th (Renaldo) - Renaldo is taking lead on the Ag department booth. Only having the single booth.

Garden Fest, April 27th (Lindsay/Stacey) - Delayed due to wind/weather. IKEA donations have been received. Have about 700 vegetable plants for sale. Need more club involvement.

Events

Institutional Support – List of department events provided by Heather. The events in bold are the events the department is seeking institutional support.

Request for an Event - Event Procedures are outlined in our Canvas department page, there is a department event request form that needs to be completed for all department events hosted on campus.

Specialty Comps – Build within event budgets. Request specialty comps as soon as possible and must be processed before the event.

SWF 2024-2025 – Mech Ag, Food Sci, Ag business, Plant Science, Animal Science

Truck to Delano – Request to move old truck to Delano, however it is being used at Bakersfield campus.

DI Water - Annual cost is \$600. Not cost-effective for our programs, will be removed.

New Building

Room Equipment: what kind of equipment do we want in our rooms. Animal science: short throw, hort: short throw, matt: short throw (multiple in shop and 1 in the classroom), plant science: short throw, ag business: short throw, forestry: short throw, Seamus short throw, soils short throw. Plant science & soils & hort doc cams & microscope camera. Mech ag, HGMI (multiple ports), Animal Sci: doc cam and microscope camera.

Room Labeling: Printout provided. Provide requested names for teaching spaces to Heather.

Early College Faculty Lead (Julie) - no updates

Ag Ambassadors (Jim) - Went to independence last week, going to Golden Valley and FARMS Leadership next week.

Ag Club (Renaldo, Daniel, Stacy) - Booth at Garden Fest, participating in Golf Tournament

SAF (Renaldo) - camping trip at Wind Wolves next week, no booth at Garden Fest due to date change.

Rodeo Club (Andrea/Julie) - May 9th and 10th will be in Vegas.

Committee Reports (*term committees)

AIQ – Laura* - eLumen is being updated every Monday and Tuesday 7:30- 8:30am. ISSR was pushed back to work on during the summer.

Assessment – Greg – Plans have been submitted.

Budget – LeAnn * - Waiting on State Budget, budget cuts are anticipated. Monday is an open forum if anyone wants to log in.

College Council - Lindsay * - Up 9.6% in enrollment compared to last year.

Curriculum – Renaldo/Carolee - Be sure to follow up on your curriculum that you have submitted.

CTE Committee –Matt - Be sure to spend your funds by the end of the month. Will need to complete the Perkins funding application for funding next year.

Facility and Sustainability – Chris – Keep Chris in the loop regarding work orders submitted. Student Housing Project will be built in the football parking lot and should be available in 22 months.

ISIT – Jim – Survey is coming, you need to complete the survey regarding which programs you use for your classes. Online classes need to be accessible and are out of compliance, faculty may need to take flex training classes to teach online.

Program Review – Jalisca – Out and live, ready to access. The process should be more streamlined. Start working on your Program Review over summer.

Faculty Requests

Scholarship Committee – Julie - Additional money for Ag Scholarships for scholarships that were unfunded.

Academic Senate – Heather * - Heather is our and Lindsay is in as Department Chair

FCDC – Heather * - no update

Committee Assignment for 2024-25 (*term committees) - Do not need to complete the credentials box

AIQ – Laura*

Assessment – Greg

Bookstore

Budget – LeAnn *

DEI

Enrollment Management

EODAC

College Council - Lindsay *

Curriculum – Renaldo/Carolee

CTE Committee –Matt

Facility and Sustainability – Chris

ISIT

Professional Development

Program Review – Jalisca

Scholarship Committee – Julie

Academic Senate – Heather *

FCDC – Lindsay *

Bakersfield College Plant Science Advisory Board Meeting Minutes Date of Meeting: Wednesday October 23, 2024

Time: 5:35PM – 7:43PM

Location: Bakersfield College CC-231

<p>Welcome and Introductions Members in Attendance: Tori Furman, Sophia Martin, Greg Cluff, Lindsay Ono, Charlie Garcia, Carolee Trimble, Laura Boots-Haupt, Matt Dawes, Daniel Palla, Kristen Camarena, Charlie Riddle, Callie Daddario, Jordan Burt, Fred Ansolabehere, Aneesha Awrey, Julie Beechinor, Richard McCrow, Mikey Mejia, Scott Pavletich, Mando Perez, Sally Sterns. Joint introduction meeting with Plant Science/Horticulture and Animal Science Advisory Boards.</p>	<p>Lindsay Ono</p>
<p>New Chair – Lindsay Ono Opened the meeting at 5:35. Updates: 34 instructors, over 100 sections of classes. Searching for Ag Business and Plant Sci instructors, and Department Program Manager. New Ag Building construction is underway, anticipated completion December 2025. Introductions Mickey Mejia- Job Development Specialist Work experience programs for students, internships, and other employment opportunities. Wants to work with employers and industry advisory members to employ students. Julie Beechinor – Animal Science Faculty Talked about Redhouse Beef and their willingness to work split shift internships. Splitting morning and afternoon sessions to accommodate student class work. Aneesha Awrey – Career Counseling Former counselor, saw the need for career guidance with the students. Industry knowledge, especially in experience and skills desired by employers, is important being able to guide the students. Tori Furman – Academic Counselor Guides students through their academic journey. New Dean – Rich McCrow New dean for the Agriculture Department. Here to support the faculty and students. Animal Science Advisory members moved to another room for their discipline meeting.</p>	
<p>Call For Additional Agenda Items – None Requested</p>	
<p>Current Student Data: Plant Science & Hort</p>	<p>Greg Cluff</p>
<p>Total enrollment has increased from 825 to 2424 students, largely due to Intro to Plant Science and Soil Science receiving GE credit and the online offerings. The success rate is 81-85%. Persistence is currently 36% from 2023. Currently there are 163 declared majors, this is a steady increase each year. Completion rate is very low, only 9 student completers last year, however,</p>	

this does not track transfers without graduating. Tracking transfers as successful completions is a conversation going on at the state level.

The department is encouraging students to engage with more industry to help decide what they want to major in and do with their major after graduating. Advisory members want to encourage students to be more involved with industry meetings and events and help mentor students into applying for internships. Faculty suggests incorporating industry tours as part of the curriculum for more classes, However there is the complication from the faculty workload that each field trip requires multiple forms to fill out which cuts into instructional and faculty prep time. The advisory members are extremely supportive of more industry tours for students and, also, suggest inviting guest speakers to individual classes or as a group panel. The Advisory members would like to see a streamlined paperwork and transportation process in place at the college, especially access to a bus or vans as was formerly available to the department.

Old Business	Lindsay Ono
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BC agriculture building BC farm BC edible garden BC Delano Proposed new bachelor’s degree program was not approved due to similarity with other university programs. 	
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New Business - Discussion	
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<p>Advisory approval of the updated programs & certificates (CA, AS, AST plant science & AS Hort) It is over a year for curriculum to be approved. Some ideas from last year’s meeting have been incorporated into current classes, drone technology. Ag Education as a new program is in development. Specific topics are readily integrated into existing classes, content has been updated based on last year’s suggestions.</p> <p>Daniel Palla moves to update CA, AS, AST Plant Science, and AS Horticulture to current GE requirements. Mondo Perez 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>New Class: Garden Projects Class (non-credit course)</p> <p>CATA mid-winter</p> <p>December conference for CA college agriculture faculty, industry tours</p> <p>BC Rodeo team</p> <p>2023 rodeo voted best college rodeo. 2024 rodeo extended to a 2-day rodeo with competitors from 20 other colleges/universities. Flyer passed out.</p> <p>Ag Career Expo</p> <p>45+ vendors, 450 agriculture students, 900 STEM students</p> <p>CAPCA Meeting</p> <p>Co-sponsored by the college: students attended both the Fall CEU meeting and annual conference.</p> <p>January meeting is upcoming.</p> <p>FFA Opening/Closing competition is being held on campus next week</p> <p>Industry:</p> <p>New and emerging technologies</p> <p>There is a big push for innovation and technology to become more user friendly and useful for the growers out in the field. CIGMA. Early disease detection and</p>	
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monitoring. Dog detection. Regenerative farming for vines and trees. Sustainability for all areas and zero-residue growing.

Challenges to agriculture

Water and labor issues creating questions regarding the future of hiring PCAs

Concerns or comments regarding bettering the department

Plant Science college students need to know the basics as well as the technology. Need to know water and soils science, as well as, economics. The students need more exposure to the industry through guest speakers and field trips. The paperwork process is a hinderance to faculty for student field trips.

Students need to be reaching out to industry contacts to build their network.

Future Meetings	Lindsay Ono
Next spring agriculture department advisory board meeting: date to be emailed, TBA in March	
Meeting Adjourned at 7:43	