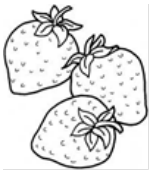
ALLAN HANCOCK COLLEGE



Agriculture Advisory Meeting Notes

Date: September 17, 2026
Meeting Place: Boyd Hall & Building F Courtyard

Called to order:	5:00 -7:00 p.m.	**Chair(s)**:	Erin Krier	**Note Taker:**	Erin Krier

Council Members Present: Marc DeBernardi, Pilar Diaz, Tyler Dickinson, Guillermo Guerra, Emily Guzman, Holly Nolan-Chavez, Brian Ramler, Nic Tasca, Jill Vink, Claire Wineman, Montse Zarate

Council Members Absent: Dr. Sean Abel, Dr. Rita Abi-Ghanem, Natalie Baldwin, Teri Bontrager, Jose Chang, Emma Chow, Rosemary Cummings, Kevin Dwyer, Brenda Estrada, Dr. Christopher Greer, Tom Gulliver, Hector Guerra, Miguel Guerra, Jenna Huebner, Danilu Jelderks, Ron Labastida, Larry Lahr, Hailey Liles, Jerry Mahoney, Yeni Martinez, Nadia Pasco, Brian Ray, Christine Ready, Andrew Rice, David Roberts, Dr. Shehbaz Singh, Luis Valdez, Dr. Terry Vassey, Stephen Waldron

Guests Present: Mario Diaz, Steve Gambril

Agenda No. 1 Welcome, Introductions, Meeting Format

Discussion:
- Erin Krier opened the meeting by explaining the new Campfire Conversations format
- Erin reported that there were many updates that there was not adequate time to share due to the shift in meeting format, so she skipped to the content that was most pressing for advisory feedback

Action: None

Deadline: n/a **Responsibility:** n/a

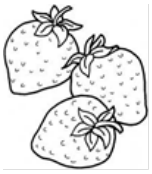
Agenda No. 2 Community and Industry Partnerships

Discussion:
- Erin shared information regarding an upcoming workshop to be hosted at the AHC student farm in partnership with UCANR Small Farms Extension Associate Claire Tuohey-Mote. The workshop titled “Market Options for Small Scale Growers in the Santa Maria Valley” is free, includes lunch, and will include Spanish translation. One of the panel presenters with be AHC part-time Ag Sales and Ag Economics professor Dr. Shehbaz Singh.

Action: Erin will provide the flyer to advisory committee members who will share the workshop flyer and registration information with their networks.

Deadline: End of week **Responsibility:** Erin Krier and Advisory members

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Agenda No. 3 **Agriculture Program Facilities**

Discussion:

- The committee discussed the ongoing need for adequate and dedicated facilities for the Agriculture program, including classroom and laboratory space, meeting and study space, and a high-tech greenhouse – to be referred to as the AHC Ag Center.
- Given grant limitations that restrict use of funds for construction projects, the committee discussed the potential funds from the Measure H issue that will appear on the November ballot.
- The committee offered to provide a letter of support for utilizing bond funds, if approved by the voters, for development of these crucial program infrastructure projects.
- A suggestion was also made to leverage the infrastructure and partnerships with the high school CTE Center for access to utilize their facilities after the bell schedule.
- The committee also discussed the possibility of seed money and/or endowments from local agriculture companies who might be willing to support infrastructure funding.

Action: Continue to pursue funding to develop an AHC Agriculture Center.

Deadline: ongoing **Responsibility:** Erin Krier and Advisory members

Agenda No. 4 **Program and Course Updates**

Discussion:

- Erin requested committee help to promote spring classes, particularly those electives that tend to be low enrolled.
- Erin requested input regarding the development of new courses and/or programs, either credit or non-credit, to support the needs of the industry. The following recommendations were made:
    - Claire Wineman reported that the industry needs shared with her from the members of the Grower-Shipper Association are: mechanics, truck drivers, welders, HR & payroll – particularly those familiar with piece-rate payments and recordkeeping, and food safety.
    - Regarding a potential new drone course and certificate, in partnership with the introductory drone course now offered in the AHC photography program, Steve Gambril cautioned about such a narrow focus and suggested drone training could be housed under a broader "Ag Tech" program umbrella.
    - Tyler Dickinson and Claire Wineman both shared the need for employees trained in compliant recordkeeping, particularly with respect to LGMA and produce safety requirements.
    - Adequate microbiological training is also essential for food safety positions.

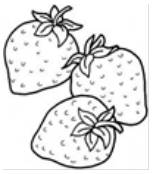
Action:

(1) Share spring course flyer with committee for distribution to networks.

(2) Consider development of new curriculum proposals that address these local industry needs.

Deadline: Flyer to be shared ASAP; curriculum development is ongoing **Responsibility:** Erin Krier

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Agenda No. 5 **Additional Input, Feedback, Suggestions from Committee**

Discussion: • All input, feedback, and suggestions were included in the previously documented agenda items.

Action: Follow up will occur with specific committee members as needed.

Deadline: Ongoing **Responsibility:** Erin Krier

Reports: **Important Dates and Follow-up**

• Next advisory committee meeting for spring semester will be the 2nd Monday of May, May 10 at 6:00 pm – returning to our traditional meeting format (in-person with a Zoom option) specific only to the Agriculture Advisory Committee.