



Agriculture Advisory Meeting Notes

Date: April 4, 2022
Meeting Place: W-31 with Zoom Option

Called to order: 6:00 -7:30 p.m. **Chair(s):** Erin Krier **Note Taker:** Erin Krier

Council Members Present: Dr. Sean Abel, Teri Bontrager, Marc DeBernardi, Kevin Dwyer, Jim Glines, Les Graulich, Miguel Guerra, Yeni Martinez, Holly Nolan-Chavez, Jill Vink, Claire Wineman, Montse Zarate

Council Members Absent: Dr. Rita Abi-Ghanem, Mitch Ardantz, Dylan Bognuda, Emma Chow, Rosemary Cummings, Tom Durant, Brenda Estrada, Cathy Fisher, Dr. Christopher Greer, Tom Gulliver, Eryn Gray, Guillermo Guerra, Dr. Jodi Jacques, Ron Labastida, Larry Lahr, Lacy Litten, Jerry Mahoney, Dr. Anjali Misra, Christine Ready, Andrew Rice, David Rice, Danilu Ramirez

Guests Present: Dean Margaret Lau, Nelly Guerra

Agenda No. 1 Course Modality

Discussion:

- Erin reported that all agriculture classes remain teaching in person, and many continue to offer a zoom option for students who might be ill or have other challenges that prevent them from attending on campus.
- Erin explained that the recently hosted Career Fair on campus saw hundreds of visitors and was the most normal that things on campus have felt since the covid pandemic.

Action: None

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

Agenda No. 2 Student Update

Discussion:

- Student representatives Montse Zarate and Yeni Martinez gave updates on their current academic experiences.
- Yeni reported on his application to transfer to Cal Poly while Montse mentioned that having the class meetings recorded is very helpful, even for students who do attend class in person so that they can review difficult content later. Yeni has an internship at Betteravia Farms as a crop scout in preparation for pursuing his Pest Control Adviser license. Montse appreciates that the content she is learning in her plant science class is relevant to the work she does in the industry and the two experiences are very complementary of one another. Yeni shared similar sentiments about his academic and work experiences.

Action: None

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

Agenda No. 3 FFA Field Day

Discussion:

- AHC hosted the first FFA Field Day in response to requests from local high school agriculture teachers. It was very successful and there were over 130 students from 14 different high schools



who registered to compete in one of the contests offered: Soil & Land Evaluation, Vegetable Crop Judging, and Veterinary Science.

- Local FFA partners helped tremendously with the event and significantly contributed to its success.
- AHC faculty also participated as judges and helped with contest preparations. Dean Margaret Lau and Holly Nolan-Chavez helped secure funding from the California Community Colleges so that participation and lunch were paid for and the FFA programs were not required to pay a fee and were provided lunch free of charge.
- It is expected that another Field Day will be offered next spring with the addition of one or possibly two new contests.

Action: None

Deadline: n/a

Responsibility:

n/a

Agenda No. 4 Food Safety Grower Outreach

- Discussion:**
- Erin informed the committee that the team she works with on the USDA food safety outreach grant with Cal Poly has decided to offer a grower workshop to address some topics that will be relevant for the industry and may be especially helpful for very small and small growers.
 - The workshop will be on June 6 from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm and Spanish translation will be provided.
 - Topics will include: FSMA ag water rule updates, cleaning and sanitizing in the field, sanitary design principles, and the On-Farm Readiness Review process via a visiting CDFA FSMA inspector.
 - The workshop is free of charge and breakfast, lunch, and snacks will be provided.
 - Erin requested assistance from committee members to promote the event. Also, there is a need for the team to understand current field cleaning and sanitizing processes so a request has been made for industry partners to assist in sharing their experiences.
 - Claire Wineman mentioned that it would be helpful to understand what parts of the field process the team is interested in learning about. Erin mentioned field packing supplies and materials.
 - Restrictions about using sanitizing chemicals in the field and Ag Orders was discussed.
 - Kevin Dwyer offered to open access to strawberry harvesting and packing field equipment.

Action: Outreach to committee members for insight on field cleaning and sanitizing procedures. Create a flyer to promote the workshop to growers and send to committee members for distribution to networks

Deadline: May 1, 2022

Responsibility:

Erin Krier

Agenda No. 5 Program and Course Updates

- Discussion:**
- Erin shared details about several new projects either under development or consideration within the AHC agriculture program:
 - The suggested courses that might comprise the new Precision Agriculture Certificate of Achievement was shared. The courses are per the suggestion of Nelly Guerra, who helped develop the program proposal. The courses currently recommended are: Introduction to Precision Agriculture, Introduction to Robotics and Mechatronics, Introduction to GIS, Introduction to Plant Science, Introduction to Soil Science, Integrated Pest Management, and Cooperative Work Experience. Nelly shared a description of the need this certificate will meet – integrating



- The Young Farmers & Ranchers club was able to resume the spring break trip to explore industry tours in the San Joaquin Valley. The club had tours to learn about ag water at the Semitropic Water District followed by the Kern County Water Bank. The club also toured Airoso Dairy with their methane reclamation project and pistachio orchard followed by a visit to the extraordinary Setton Pistachio processing plant.

Discussion:

- The AHC Rodeo Team hosted a sanctioned barrel race, Battle of the Barrels, at the Elks Arena to raise funds and awareness of the growing rodeo program. The team members have been competing in the West Coast Region and freshman standout Kaydin Finan put AHC in the top standings. The annual fundraising event is scheduled for August 20.

Action:

None

Responsibility: Erin Krier

Deadline:

n/a

**Agenda
No. 6**

• **High School Partnerships**

Discussion:

- Erin requested high school partners to share the Field to Table Week of Welcome event registration information for incoming freshman in any of the “field to table” academic disciplines.
- AHC will again host an FFA Field Day in February 2023.

Action:

Share flyers and information with local FFA partners.

Deadline:

As needed

Erin Krier

Responsibility:

**Agenda
No. 7**

• **Additional Input, Feedback, Suggestions from Committee**

Discussion:

None provided.

Action:

Deadline:

ongoing

Responsibility:

n/a

Reports:

• **Important Dates and Follow-up**

- Next advisory committee meeting for fall semester will be Monday, December 5, 2022 at 6:00 pm