

## SRJC Ag & Natural Resources Department

### Advisory Committee Meeting

Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 11:00am – 1:00 pm

Zoom

### Minutes

1. Welcome 11:05am, introductions made.
2. Approval of Minutes from May 2023: 1<sup>st</sup> Amelia 2<sup>nd</sup> Kerry, Brandon abstain
3. Department update
  - a. **Enrollment:** Fall 22-Fall24 enrollment has increased from 1120 to 1513. Overall enrollment is strong ag NR a big jump in Ag. CCAP included?
  - b. **Newly approved UC Transfer courses: New Into to soil AGRI 30, Intro to sustainable agriculture SUAG 5 behavioral sciences approved for UC and CalGetc**

Joel discussed the transfer of students from their department to four-year institutions, noting that the number of transfers is small, around 10%. He suggested that they could model their programs after those of UC Davis, which has a multidisciplinary approach. Joel also proposed looking at where students transfer to and from, and which community colleges have the highest number of transfer students in agriculture and biology. John suggested that their approach should be clearer for students who don't know their major, and Chris offered to share the breakdown of CD industry sectors at the high school level.
  - c. **Spring schedule is finalized:** Open enrollment November 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - d. **Shone Landscape Quad planting and progress:**

Joel provided an update on the garden project, mentioning the addition of new plants and trees, and the potential impact of the heavy rainfall. Joel shared some photos.
  - e. **Response from district regarding department culture: District has a plan**

Victor presented a detailed plan with 35 action steps, focusing on seven main themes such as student support needs, employee onboarding and engagement, academic programs and farm operations, site alignment and goals, fiscal management, community building, and district operations integration. The plan includes hiring a third-party facilitator to address inclusivity issues, improving communication, and streamlining academic programs. Andrew suggested incorporating required courses for self-awareness, emotional intelligence, and unconscious bias recognition into the onboarding process. Evan asked about the continuation of the third-party facilitator's services, to which Victor responded that it would be for at least a year, with a focus on building trust and addressing past traumas.
  - f. **Re-org of program disciplines:** In the meeting, Bill and Joel discussed the potential reorganization of the wine and viticulture programs within the agriculture business. Bill suggested moving some wine business classes into the agriculture business but expressed concerns about the potential impact on the wine program. Joel agreed, noting that such a move could create a ripple effect and potentially leave the wine program hanging. Andrew suggested surveying

students to understand their transfer plans and the structure of other institutions and emphasized the importance of building relationships with faculty in other disciplines to create a pipeline for future leaders in agriculture and resource management. gather data on where students from the Ag Department, Biology Department, and Earth and Space Sciences Department transfer to for 4-year degree The conversation ended by stating that the department would need to have a collaborative discussion about the proposed changes.

- i. Agri/Susag/Hort
- ii. NRM
- iii. Animal Science, Equine Science, & Animal Health
- iv. Vit/Wine
- v. Floral Design
- vi. Ag Business

**g. View course schedule the way students see it:**

Joel to explore ways to improve student access to course offerings across related disciplines within the department.

**h. Discuss ways to share class schedule with Advisory board members:**

Joel to create a consolidated list of department courses by discipline to share with advisory board members.

- 4. **Committee Chair:** Joel will reach out to Andrew to see if he would be interested and if not, Melanie will do it.
- 5. **Next Meeting:** We will send out a poll to determine the date and time for the Spring Meeting.

**Adjournment:** 1pm

**In Attendance:**

**Members:** Bill Traverso, Brndon Jewell, Kerry McGrath, Melanie Parker, Brooke Pippi, Amelia Shapiro, Andrew Smith, Evan Wig, Chri Carlan.

**SRJC:** Pam Wittenberg, Joel Grogan, Johnny Campbell, Victor Tam, Merilark Padgett, Conner Murphy, Joanna Chu, Janet Stribling