

AG/NR Central Advisory Committee Meeting

May 1, 2024

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Meeting called to order at 12:35pm
- b. Members Present: Melanie Parker, Jake Dunn, Amber Bowen, Christie Calson, Dayna Ghirardelli, Amelia Shapiro, Brooke Pippi, Andrew Smith, Evan Wiig
- c. Staff: Kim Kinahan, Megan Rhodes, Merilark Padgett, Johnny Campbell, Victor Tam, Joel Grogan, Joanna Chu, Janet Stribling
- d. Absent: Pam Wittenberg,

2. Approval of Minutes:

- a. Minutes were approved by Melanie Parker motioned and Amelia Shapiro Second.

3. Department Update (Joel Grogan)

- a. Grant Proposals-Animal Health with Pam and Dan did a Lending Library Proposal.
 - i. Propagation house plant production
- b. Dual Enrollment: CCAP- College courses at high schools. Proposal for staff time, meeting materials and professional development. Currently Analy HS will offer next semester AG business and maybe Animal Science. Hoping for plant science AG Business next Spring.
- c. Curriculum revisions/transferability:
 - i. Kim Kinahan, Internships, Title 9 makes it possible to imbed in courses soon. Job board is called handshake. Sonoma Co to bring back internships back. Looking for funding source to pay students.
 - ii. Evan said he has 3 new staff members. Field days and AG learning opportunities., Sonoma Tech group will host The on June 6th. Vendor, lectures, sessions. Students are free.
 - iii. Federal Gov has pathway paid internships, USDA earth team volunteers with hands on experience.
- d. Plant Sale: Successful plant sale which goes to student scholars and course supplies for class.
- e. Summer and Fall Schedule: online now
- f. Staffing: Janet Stribling is new AAIII, Johnny new sustainability AG Coordinator, Briana resigned.
 - i. Brooke Pippi raised concerns over the resignation of a female faculty member with the committee.
 - ii. Committee members posed questions about the allegations pertaining to the resignation, discussed how the AG/NR industry has handled creating a supportive and inclusive environment, requested a response from the District on steps being taken to create a supportive environment at Shone Farm -- including policy changes and trainings -- and how future incidents can proactively be prevented.

4. Thought on consolidation of programs (Committee Members)

- a. Context:11 certificate programs, 9 academic programs.
- b. Could we consolidate horticulture, agriculture, and sustainable AG programs.
 - i. Evan Wiig proposed that AG and Sustainable Ag should be the same
 - ii. There was discussion about whether and how NRM may fit into a grouped program

- iii. Melanie Parker suggested that NRM may not fit easily in with horticulture/ag/susag
 - c. What would we name the new program?
 - i. Andrew Smith suggested that perhaps the entire department could be grouped under one overarching discipline. Specific example: UBC's 'Land and Food Systems'.
 - d. How important are degree/certificate titles to employers?
 - i. One suggestion was cross listing related courses
 - e. Committee members asked Joel to bring back a proposal of how courses/programs could be grouped for their consideration review, on or before next Advisory meeting in the fall.
- 5. **Thoughts on marketing courses/programs** (Committee Members)
 - a. Context (Joel Grogan)
 - b. How are the courses offering disseminated now?
 - c. What would committee need to help share these courses on our behalf?
 - d. What is the ideal timeline (SRJC, Students, etc.)
 - e. Committee discussion about methods (online, paper, in person) as well as target audience and marketing
- 6. **Adjourn:** 2:10pm