Draft VENTURA COLLEGE

Minutes of Agriculture Advisory Board Meeting

Date: Wednesday, May 5, 2021 Zoom Meeting

Present: Jose Antonio Gomez, Annemick Schilder, Gerry Pantoja, Dorothy Farias, Felicia Dueñas, Laurie Arnold, Keith Barnard, Brian Cook, Raquel De Los

Santo, Blane Schloo, Anne King
Recorder: Fileen Crump

Agenda Item	Summary of Discussion	Action (If Required)	Assigned to:
Call to order	The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m.		Dorothy Farias
New Agriculture Department	Agriculture Department includes:		Dorothy Farias
D opar amone	1. Agriculture Programs		
	a. Ag Business		
	b. Plant Science		
	c. Food Safety		
	d. Ag Field Supervisor		
	e. Veterinary Assistant/Technician Programs		
	2. Water Science Program		
	Dorothy Farias was elected as the Department Chair to oversee the Agriculture		
	Department.		
New Agriculture Department Logo	Created by graphic designer Nick Chavira.		Dorothy Farias
	Symbols represents all the Agriculture Programs.		
	Tree - Plant Science		
	Microscope - Food Safety		
	Fruits - Agricultural Business		
	Animal silhouettes – Veterinary Technician		
Agriculture	Degrees & Certificates Programs		Dorothy Farias
Program Update			-
	Associate's Degree (AS)		
	 Agriculture Business – Associate Science Transfer (AST) 		
	Plant Science (AST)		
	 Veterinary Technology (F20) 		
	Food Safety (F21)		
	Certificate of Achievement (COA)		
	Plant Science – 21 units		
	 Food Safety (Fall 21) – 18 units 		
	Veterinary Assistant (F20)		
	AG Business (Fall 22)		
	Certificate of Completion (COCN)		

AG Courses Offered Fall 2020- Spring 2021	 Food Safety (Fall 21) – Non-Credit, all courses online except Food Microbiology Ag Field Supervisor (Fall 21) – Taught Bi-lingual, Non-Credit – 3 classes. Fall 2020 & Spring 2021 Courses: AG V01 – Ag & Society – New GE course AG V06 – Plant Science – GE course AG V10 – Agriculture Business AG V12 – Agriculture Economics – GE course AG V13 – Computer Applications in Agriculture – summer semester AG V43 – Plant ID/Fall Specimens – New GE course Spring 2021 Courses: AG V14 – Agricultural Accounting AG V30 – Plant Propagation ESRM V11 – Soil Science – GE course AG V43 – Plant ID/Spring Specimens – New GE course AG V41 – AG & Society (Also taught at Camarillo High School/Dual Enrollment) GE course AG V46/N136 – Introduction to Food Safety – Credit and Non Credit (Overview course for those interested in studying Food Safety.) Summer 2021 AG V61 – Introduction to Animal Science – Transferable New GE Course, can be used as part of the Agriculture elective courses. (Developed for students not interested in the Veterinary Technician program.) 		Dorothy Farias
New AG Courses for Fall 2021	 New Courses Fall 2021 AG V21 – Intro to Integrated Pest Management (Approved for Fall 2021, but not scheduled to be offered yet) AG V22 – Intro to Plant Pathology - New GE course (Approved for Fall 2021, but not scheduled to be offered yet) AG V04 – Soil Science (Formerly ESRM V11) GE course AG N150 – HR for AG Field Supervisors AG N151 – Ag Laws & Regs for Field Supervisors DM V11 – Intro to Ag Heavy-Duty Diesel Repair (Approved for Fall 2021, but not scheduled to be offered yet) DM V45 – Heavy-Duty Diesel Powertrains (Approved for Fall 2021, but not scheduled to be offered yet) 		Dorothy Farias
AG Course/Program Enrollment Data	Data from the last three academic years indicates that the number of students enrolled in agriculture classes are fluctuating due to the program being relatively new. Plant Science classes have high enrollments. Agriculture Business classes have low enrollment, so there is a marketing campaign to help increase enrollment. The marketing campaign advertises locally and statewide since classes are online. Possible cause of low enrollment is fraudulent students' enrollments. There will be another social media campaign in fall 2021 to help increase enrollment.	UPDATE: Fall 2021 Enrollments for both Plant Science and Ag Business are Strong and HIGHER than last 3 years in all Courses offered Fall 2021!	Felicia Dueñas

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Adjacent Advisory Boards	 Veterinary Technology Program (required for Accreditation) Agriculture Field Supervisor 	Felicia Dueñas
Program Graduate Feedback	Maribel Saucedo, a graduate of the Ventura College Agriculture Program, said she appreciates the opportunity that the Agriculture Program gave her to engage with agriculture industries, attend field trips and tours. Maribel said the Ventura College courses prepared her for classes at Fresno State where she is currently majoring in Agriculture Business. She attributes her current job at Associate's Insectary with a Ventura College Agriculture industry partner as a result of being active in VC's Ag program.	Dorothy Farias
	Cassandra Martinez, a graduate of the Ventura College Agriculture Program, is currently attending Cal Poly SLO. Cassandra is grateful for her courses that prepared her for the classes at Cal Poly. The Agriculture Program gave her real world experiences. She enjoyed all the field trips and activities provided by the Agriculture Department. Cassandra wants the Advisory Board to know that the Ventura College Agriculture caliber of classes are on par with or better than those at Cal Poly. Cassandra said that saving money attending Ventura College made it easier to transfer to Cal Poly SLO.	
Ventura College Avocado Learning Lab	The Grand Opening for the Avocado Orchard took place in December 2019. The Grand Opening was featured in: • The Packer • NPR-KCLY • VC Report	Dorothy Farias
Lab/Facility Technician	The Lab/Facility Technician Position will be posted by May 2021. (Start Date July 1, 2021) • Responsibilities: 1. Care and maintenance of lab facilities. 2. Avocado orchard upkeep. 3. Assist with lab preparations. 4. Overseeing student workers UPDATE: Hired Plant Science Lab Tech to start Sept 1 2021	Dorothy Farias
Events & Developments	Fall 2019 Events CTE Open House October 2019 PMA Fresh Summit Fresno State CC AG Leadership Conference Food Safety Trainings: FSVP (November) HACCP (December) Ventura County High School Recruitment Local Field Trips Limoneira San Miguel Produce Associates	Dorothy Farias

Spring 2020 New Plant Science Instructor: Deanna Vega (Teaches 1-2 courses/semester: AG V06, AG V30, AG V42, AG V43) Santa Paula High School Dual Enrollment AG V10 (Was canceled in April due to Covid.) Student Trips World AG Expo – February 2020 AG Ambassador Conference at Cal Poly (Jan 2020) Fall 2020 Cal AG Leadership Conference (October 2020) Virtually hosted by Chico State Career Pathways Panel (Webinar) Ventura County Farm Day Virtual Tours (November 2020) Spring 2021 World Ag Exp (Virtual, February 2021) AG Ambassador Conference (April 2021 Virtual, hosted by SLO) Ventura College Career Fair (Virtual) Agriculture Department webpage under construction. Each agriculture program will have a landing page. Agriculture Business Plant Science Food Safety Agriculture Field Supervisor Veterinary Technology Webpage content for each landing page/program will include the following: Program Learning Objectives Sample Jobs/Careers Degree/Certificate maps for each program listed on individual pages. Two-year schedule of specific course offerings. Links to 4-year programs for transfer opportunities. (For Ag Bus/Plant Sci)	Advisory members please review Agriculture webpages and give feedback to Dorothy. https://www.venturacoll ege.edu/departments/ac ademic/agriculture	Dorothy Farias
 Department Funding Purchases: Tools, Equipment, Outdoor Lab Supplies Classroom/Instructional Supplies GoPro camera used by instructor Dee Vega to record lab assignments. Take home lab kits for remote learning. Gator attachments purchased. Agriculture Tractor repairs (used in avocado orchard). 		Dorothy Farias
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	Technology upgrades • 14 iPads with cases and keyboards • ECT 8 Classroom Projector upgrade		
	 Food Safety Instructor in Agricultural Part Time Fall 2021 (Will be hiring multiple instructors) Still Open - Link to job posting: VCCCD AG P/T Faculty Openings Agriculture Field Supervisor (Bilingual) Fall 2021 Instructor In Agricultural Business, Bilingual (Non Credit Instruction) Part Time Update: Hired 2 instructors for P/T pool with 1 instructor starting in Aug 2021 		
	 Facility Upgrade Goals: Replace damaged Greenhouse with new structure. Hoop House (Donation) ECT 8 Classroom upgrades (Tech upgrade completed Fall 2020) Create Lab Space at Ventura College East Campus 		
	Funding for students		
Industry Collaboration Needs	Resource needs for VC Ag Facilities Dual Enrollments and High School Recruitment Guest Speakers Field Trips Internships Scholarships Career Fair Department Open House Current industry employee education opportunities Community outreach/collaboration		Dorothy Farias
Future Program Direction	 Agriculture interdisciplinary collaboration with Manufacturing and Diesel Mechanics. Will provide short courses in CR/Non-credit format in areas linked to AG Mechanics, Equipment, Systems, Welding Agriculture Equipment/Heavy Machinery Mechanization/Fabrication Advisory members gave positive feedback in developing these programs. Developing additional pathways in Agriculture will give students more career options. These courses will be under the Agriculture Department. 	Decision made to change discipline name from DM (Diesel Mechanics) to AG (Agriculture) for Ag Mechanics courses under development (Suggestion by DM Farias, seconded by K. Barnard and	Dorothy Farias, Blane Schloo

	Discussion regarding Ag Mechanics courses/program – concerns raised from Diesel Advisory board regarding conflicts among industry partners.	approved by advisory board members present)	
	To provide more separation between existing DM program and new Ag Mechanics courses/program, suggestion made to rename Ag Mechanics courses under the AG discipline, instead of Diesel (DM). Also will help with high school Ag students interested in pursuing Ag Mech degrees/certificates.	DM Farias will work with B Schloo to rename the current DM Ag Mech Courses	
	Likewise point raised that vast majority of Community College Ag Mechanics/Technology programs are under/tied to the Ag discipline.		
	 Pest Control Advising (PCA) (Industry partners see a local need) Certified Crop Advising (CCA) (Industry partners see a need) Irrigation science Hydroponics Greenhouse Nursery/Horticulture GIS/Drone Tech Ag Science Logistics/Supply Chain Management Import/Export New programs recommended by Advisory board members: Seed Testing/Plant breeding Water Irrigation Management/Water Resource Management 	DM Farias will work this Fall 2021 to submit program proposal for Certificate in Crop and Pest Advising for approval to start Fall 2022. Also will work with state DPR to add qualifying courses to the list for approval as part of PCA requirements. DM Farias will also explore potential new	
	 Viticulture Meteorology Organic Production 	course offerings in the areas of Irrigation, Water Resource Mgmt, Organic/Sustainable Ag.	
	Short courses (non-credit) geared specifically to industry.	Will also evaluate current AG Business	
	Potential Food Safety Symposium for industry.	courses for inclusion of topics such as Supply Chain Mgmt, Logistics and Import/Export	
Adjournment	Adjourned 5:35 p.m.		Dorothy Farias