

CR AG Advisory Committee Meeting 2/10/11

Minutes

The meeting began at 3:00 p.m. in the Farm Bureau Conference Room. Those present were: Wes Anderson, Noah Corp, Walt Giacomini, Deborah Giraud, Julie Houtby, Holly Krebs, John LaBoyteaux, Mike Mullen, Tom O’Gorman, Mike Peterson, Pru Ratliff, Franz Rulofson, Janet Sclar, and Katherine Ziemer.

Katherine discussed the Farm Bureau proposal to renovate the CR house and turn it into AG Student Housing. The Farm Bureau has received a \$40,000 grant from the Head Waters Fund to help with the renovation. Ag Credit has also pledged \$10,000. CR has issued a request for bids and will make a decision at the April Board of Trustees meeting. Katherine will be at the meeting in Crescent City. Franz mentioned that the CR wiring instructor volunteered his class to rewire the house. There is a slight possibility that the construction technology program may be able to help with repairs as well.

Noah mentioned that CR now has an AG Leaders club. Students from all aspects of the AG program are involved. A new course in AG Leadership was developed and offered this semester. Students in this class will be AG Ambassadors for our program. They can also compete statewide with other Community Colleges in areas of public speaking and knowledge bowl. They will also be taking part in leadership conferences.

The farm has been purchasing needed equipment with money from the Cal Trans grant. To date just under \$200,000 has been spent on equipment including two vans which are being used to transport students in the agriculture program. Noah is evaluating the farm enterprises and will see a year of production before initiating any change. Several new enterprises will be added this summer that will benefit the animal science curriculum. They include: pasture pork, free range turkeys, grassfed beef in addition to the meat goats.

Franz will be submitting a grant request for Perkins funds. The priority this year is for laboratory improvement in the soils and agriculture mechanics labs. Roughly \$26,000 is being requested.

The agriculture program currently offers Associate of Science degrees in general agriculture and plant science. There are currently 35 difference courses offered in agriculture. This year several classes were canceled because of the budget. Next year looks even worse. A student survey has been developed to determine what the interest of current students is in various degrees and certificates. Noah will modify this survey and get it into the high schools. A sub-committee made up of Noah Corp, Franz Rulofson, two high school AG teachers, Walt Giacomini and Tom O’Gorman was appointed to look at our course, certificate and degree offerings and make a recommendation back as what the priorities for the future should be. This committee will meet next week.

A discussion on possible future farm enterprises was held. Ideas discussed included: AG tourism, value added products, and hops.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.