

College of the Redwoods
Agriculture Advisory Committee

Spring 2012 Meeting

Meeting Packet Documents:

Spring Meeting Agenda, March 2, 2012

AG-AS-Animal Science (Draft 3/1/12)

Articulation Proposal

74th Annual Redwood Region Logging Conference

Functions and Duties of Advisory Committees

AG-AS (Approved April 2011)

Program Advisory Committee

Minutes of the Meeting, March 2, 2012

Present: Katherine Zimmer (Farm Bureau), Franz Rulofson (CR), Julie Houtby (AG Credit Bureau), Noah Corp (CR; presiding), Colette Beaupré (CR; note taker)

Meeting called to order at 4:45 p.m.

Program Update

Funding: Currently, all budgets at CR are drastically limited, due to the **CA State Budget** cut-backs. The CR AG Program has minimal District funds to work with at this time.

The **Cal Trans/Bridge Grant** funds set aside for the Shively Farm are currently encumbered by a Coastal Commission member's objections. Noah Corp and Katherine Zimmer will meet with the stakeholder next week to discuss concerns regarding funding improvements on the Farm.

The **Perkins IV, Title I, Part C Funds (CTEA)** are available for faculty/ staff professional improvement and program/ equipment improvement. This year we were able to send Noah Corp and Donna Brink to state-wide professional meetings; and were able to purchase laboratory equipment for Room AT 108, the Agriculture classroom on the main campus. Anticipated future funding through this grant is to cover butchering and cattle handling equipment. Currently, CR AG Farm meat (small livestock) is butchered through Redwood Meat Co., and then stored in the walk-in cooler at the Shively Farm until sold. With this equipment we will be able to do all phases of meat production and marketing on the farm.

The AG program continues to pursue **options for main-campus housing for AG students**. The latest development is a proposal to generate the needed funds by selling the CR Hatchery building for relocation to a nearby off-campus site. Katherine Zimmer is exploring these possibilities.

Curriculum Changes: The proposed AG-AS-Animal Science Degree will free-up six credit units for students to either take more Ag courses towards the degree or more General Ed courses, if transferring. This can be achieved by removal of AG 33, AG 46, or AG 19. AG 33, *Environment & Agriculture* is a General Ed course, and doesn't transfer. AG 46, *Computers in AG Management*, is not a transfer course for other colleges' curriculum. AG 19, *Weed Identification and Control*, is an upper-division course elsewhere.

We propose to instate a one (1) credit unit course, *AG Career Planning*, to be required for all AG majors. The highest degree hiring requirements of AG disciplines for landing a job appear to be in AG Business – CR should push for graduates in this discipline.

College of the Redwoods' Accreditation Status: CR has been placed on "**Show Cause**" by the ACCJC. A major issue is that the College needs to be proficiently and continuously assessing how well each course/ service is meeting its Student Learning Objectives. This is a formal on-going process, following specific

protocol and requiring documentation. This has been required of all California Community Colleges for years, and we as a college have not been doing the work. It is required that the data from these assessments is in turn used to assess programs, degrees, and services. Further, this data is to be used in developing institutional planning and on-going operations at all levels in the District. CR AG is currently in compliance.

Shively Farm: This year the Farm sold turkeys; and currently has chickens, as well as goats and pigs. Laying hens are in production with eggs becoming available for sale. A mobile hen house system for free-range foraging is being built. Two rows of “non-harvestable” orchard trees were removed, to replace with trellis and hedge-row plantings. We are experimenting with mulching and irrigation techniques in this area as well. We’ll continue Farmer’s Market, and some wholesale marketing of the farm’s produce. There are twelve acres in alfalfa production on the farm. A new main entry to the farm will include a solar-powered automated gate. We are installing cross-fencing on the farm for more efficient livestock rotation.

On-farm student housing: three RV pads (including septic, electrical and water) will be installed at the Shively Farm as soon as funding is available. This includes installation of underground electrical wiring onto the farm and an upgraded electrical panel for the farm to accommodate this and future improvements to the property. Estimated cost is \$10,000. The electrical for the pads will benefit from the farm’s agricultural electrical rates, and the water will be from the same line as the farm house. Students will use their own RV’s.

CR Greenhouse & Plant Science: Greenhouse operations are funded by the proceeds of our annual plant sale, and support plant science courses. We are currently teaching AG 23, *Introduction to Plant Science*, and AG 21, *Plant Propagation*. Our students in both courses are involved in preparation for the plant sale, and gain experience in commercial production, marketing, and community service. Spring 2012 Plant Sale: April 27 & 28, 2012. This is in coordination with, but separate from, the Humboldt Botanic Garden Plant Sale.

Students in the Fall 2011 *Construction Technology* course demolished and replaced our “lath house” structure south of the CR Greenhouse. Materials for this permanent structure were paid for by Spring 2011 Plant Sale funds. This structure provides a growing area for seed germination, seedling development and hardening-off.

CR’s AG Leadership Students: Enrollment in this class is up over the past year. The CR AG Leadership students sponsored this year’s **CA Statewide CAR Conference**, here on the main campus. The students participated in **CR’s Science Night** with a farmer’s market, pumpkin patch, apple cider press, and petting zoo. All of these events were popular and well-attended, giving our AG program high visibility in the community to school children and their families. CR sponsored the **FFA field day**, a state-wide event, here on the main campus. Over spring break this month, the CR Ag Leadership class will be **touring the AG industry in the California central valley**.

Recruitment efforts to the local high schools by Noah and Franz have been successful in bringing in new students to CR’s AG program. Katherine Zimmer proposed that CR should put together a tabloid similar to the one the Logging Conference publishes and circulates through the Times Standard and the Ukiah Daily Journal (see: *74th Annual Redwood Region Logging Conference*). Perhaps it could be timed for release in early October, before Science Night.

AG Advisory Committee: Discussed *Functions and Duties of the AG Advisory Committee*; **need for members.**

It was proposed that late afternoon, early in the week, may be a more suitable meeting time for committee members. Possible dates for the next meeting: Thursday late afternoon on 4/5, 4/12/ or 4/26; or Monday late afternoon on 4/2, 4/9, 4/16 or 4/23. Meetings will be quarterly. A definite date was not set for the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.