

## **Agriculture Advisory Meeting**

**Date: 11/11/08**

Present:

Everett M. King, John LaBoyteaux, Lisa Carnahan, Deborah Giraud, John Vevoda, Katherine Ziemer, Walt Giacomini, Dona Moxon, Greg Dale, Robert Laffranchi, Tim Baker, David Bazard, Roxanne Metz, Jeff Marsee.

Minutes

4pm.

Welcome and introduction by Forestry Professor Tim Baker. Tim provided an overview of the past history of Agriculture at College of the Redwoods. He also indicated that the Ag Advisory Committee had not met during the 07/08 academic year due to a lack of a full-time Agriculture professor at the college.

Professor Baker introduced Dr. Jeff Marsee, College of the Redwoods President.

Dr. Marsee discussed the Coastal Commission requirement for mitigation of a California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) project. This mitigation requires CalTrans to set aside \$2 million dollars to offset the impact of the project on agricultural lands. The proposal allows for 0.5 million in principal and interest to be used for equipment including two “green” vans. The interest from the remaining 1.5 million can be used to fund a full-time faculty person who would teach credit courses at the farm and the college. Dr. Marsee suggested a Manager/Faculty position would best satisfy the needs of the college agriculture program. In addition, Dr. Marsee discussed the college’s commitment to hire a full-time agriculture faculty member through a newly modified college process.

Dr. Marsee discussed the college’s commitment to strengthening and rebuilding the agriculture program. In addition to the new faculty and manager positions, the college intends to overhaul the curriculum and add a 4-year college transfer option.

There was discussion of what would be required to implement a viable transfer program. This included support from local high schools as well as ensuring the program is linked to 4-year programs and provides adequate curriculum for a major-to-major transfer of students.

The committee discussed the possibility of providing student scholarships through the Cattleman’s Association and Farm Bureau.

There were also questions concerning the “Organic” stipulation of the mitigation funds. Members of the committee expressed concern that an entirely organic focus would not serve the students. Professor Bazard stated that the mitigation fund requirements only

apply to the status of the Shively farm and do not require that the entire Agriculture program focus on organic farming. Dr. Marsee confirmed this statement.

The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing the nature of a future transfer program. This included curriculum that is needed as well as activities that would make the program attractive to students. Ideas were discussed about ensuring that students could participate in extra-curricular agriculture activities such as Ag Ambassadors.

The College of the Redwoods team responsible for program development (professor Baker, Division Chair Bazard, and Development Coordinator Roxanne Metz) stated that their short-term goals were to identify and work with a consultant to update and write curriculum and to develop advertisement materials for attracting a full-time agriculture professor. The committee suggested writing a separate and less “boiler plate” advertisement that could be mailed to schools to recruit a dynamic faculty member. There was also discussion of the Ag Advisory Committee’s role in helping with this effort. No specific assignments were given, but the development team suggested another meeting of the Ag Advisory Committee to focus those efforts.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.