

Horticulture Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 3, 2015, 12:00-3:00pm
Ag Science Conference Room

Attendees: Jerry Budnick, Loni Brown, Richard Farmer, John Schrimsher, Alecia Baugh, Jesus Ramirez, Danny Hughes, Dave Lannom, Antoine Thomas, Carol Partridge, Jennifer Hinostrroza, John Marman, Brian Scott, Nicholas Staddon, Matthew Judd, Karelyn Hoover, Carolyn Bell, Dena Juarez – Minutes

1. Welcome (Nicholas Staddon, Advisory Committee Chair)
 - a. Opened the meeting and welcomed everyone and thanked them for joining.
2. Introduction of staff and advisory committee members
 - a. Jerry Budnick – Landscape Contractor
 - b. Loni Brown – Mt. Sac Graduate, Landscape Maintenance and Design
 - c. Richard Farmer – Manager of Horticulture Landscape Services at Cal Poly Pomona
 - d. John Schrimsher – Operations Manager, Horticulture at Disneyland Resorts
 - e. Alecia Baugh – Mt SAC Graduate, Plantsman and Propagator at Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens
 - f. Jesus Ramirez – Horticulture Unit, Mt Sac
 - g. Danny Hughes – Construction Supervisor, City of Los Angeles, LA Ports
 - h. Dave Lannom – Mt SAC Professor Emeritus
 - i. Antoine Thomas – Mt SAC Counselor
 - j. Carol Partridge – Community Services Superintendent, City of Walnut
 - k. Jennifer Hinostrroza – Mt SAC Professor
 - l. John Marman – West Coast Turf
 - m. Brian Scott – Mt SAC Professor
 - i. Announced Sales of T-Shirts to help support the Horticulture Club
 - n. Nicholas Staddon – Retiree, passion is plants and promoting the industry
 - o. Matthew Judd – Dean of Natural Sciences, Mt SAC
 - p. Karelyn Hoover – Associate Dean of Natural Sciences, Mt SAC
 - q. Carolyn Bell – Mt SAC Graduate, Landscape Planning Division, City of Ontario
3. Review and approve minutes from last meeting (May 14, 2015)
 - a. Danny Hughes – Motioned to approve
 - b. Richard Farmer – 2nd the motion
 - c. Approval of May 14, 2015 Minutes
4. Tom Visosky's announcement...
 - a. Tom has decided to retire at the end of this year after 35+ years of service.
 - b. Received approval to hire a full time replacement to start in the Fall of 2016. Date of job posting is pending but should be in the Spring.
 - c. Tom will be here in May and able to attend his last advisory committee meeting
5. Career Night – May 12, 2015 (5-8:45pm)
 - a. This year's career night will be our 25th year, the department should look into celebrating that in some way at career night.
 - b. Suggested that we have students fill out some type of information form in order to communicate/follow up with those that attend. It also provides the opportunity to keep track of the numbers attending.
 - c. Have secured building 13 theater and courtyard on north side of building
 - d. Agenda and Format

- i. We have scaled down the timeframe and have fewer speakers which keeps the evening to a specified time. The downside is, there are limitations on how many topics that can be discussed.
- ii. 3 Key note speakers – 30 minute presentations
- iii. Before and after section which consists of former students which provides inspiration to the students sitting in the audience
- iv. There are three career paths that we speak about, so we need to review historical speaker lists to see what we haven't done in a while or at all, or if it we have done something regularly that we should speak about again.
- v. Nicholas Staddon suggested a challenge to the advisory committee to reach out to companies that they know that are within an area we could place students or have them come to the fair and set up a table to talk about what they do.
- vi. From 5-6pm is the career networking session which is when the students will walk around and speak with the companies. Gives the students an opportunity to ask companies what they would need to prepare themselves to work for a company like theirs in the future. Not necessarily to work for that specific company.
- vii. This is a career fair, not a job fair.
- viii. Career Fair Committee – Bill Millward (has been carrying the committee the past 2 years.) Brian Scott volunteered Bill to chair the committee for the 3rd year.
 - 1. If anyone is interested in participating on this committee, please notify Brian Scott and he will provide your information to Bill Millward.
 - 2. Jerry Budnick and Danny Hughes volunteered during the meeting
 - 3. 7 Minute Speeches
 - a. Jerry has a great contact that works for Valley Crest regarding irrigation services. Eric Santos is the VP of Irrigation Services. He will ask if he is willing to speak and will let Brian know.
 - b. Mark Gentilli volunteered to speak at the fair. He works with LADWP in utility.
 - c. Anne Watson works for Paul Getty, suggested by Dave Lannom. He will forward her information to Brian Scott.
 - d. Max Valencia has agreed to speak. He has a landscaping contracting business.
 - e. Dave will provide Michelle's information to Brian.
 - f. Matt suggested our new Horticulture Production Assistant who is a former student – Cynthia Mascarena. She will start after the January board meeting.
 - g. Nicholas Staddon volunteered to speak on plant trends
 - h. Alecia Baugh volunteered to speak.
 - 4. Suggestion was made to have a 20 minute segment of 5 minute each to talk about what is trending in their industries to keep students aware of what is trending. Such as irrigation, soil, drainage, etc.
 - 5. Suggestion for a time keeper to make sure everyone stays on track during their speeches; Brian stated he would work on getting someone.
 - 6. Another suggestion would be to ask the companies attending the fair, to come prepared with a handout for students regarding their company. Jennifer said if she is provided a PDF or link, she could upload to our

website to make it available online. The Ag department can print the fliers for the vendors as long as we receive them at least 24 hours in advance.

- e. Advertise the event on the marquee and the monitors all over campus to expand the group that attends.
6. Status Reports
- a. Horticulture Unit, Ag Literacy Trail – Dave and Jesus
 - i. Ag Literacy Trail
 - 1. Unofficially, Area right outside where the turf is, will become a California native gardens for students to ID and early usage of California plants and could be used as part of trail for younger students. Hope to have it available by Spring.
 - 2. Successful on Saturday work days
 - 3. Use Volunteers for the labor
 - 4. Received a grant to cover some cost (\$2000)
 - 5. Demonstration Garden is being fine-tuned and seems to be thriving
 - 6. Concerned about the container garden and would like to put on hold
 - a. Dave stated he thinks the sycamores will all have to be replaced
 - 7. Still need to hang the signs
 - ii. Horticulture Unit
 - 1. We had an issue with Descanso plant sales last October because we weren't allowed to go into the grounds. After speaking with them and voicing our concerns, they have now granted us access to drive onto the grounds. So a 5 hour loading/unloading has been reduced to 1 hour.
 - 2. Descanso Plant Sale was very successful, sold \$13k gross approx wholesale and netted \$10k approx.
 - 3. We have been selling at Descanso Gardens for 22 years.
 - 4. We have a farmers market every Saturday at Mt SAC and every other Friday we have plants at the Baldwin Park Kaiser's farmers market.
 - 5. Kaiser in Baldwin Park also has purchased some poinsettias which are displayed in their lobby.
 - 6. This year we have 9 different varieties of poinsettias
 - 7. The poinsettias sales flyer went out a bit earlier this year
 - 8. We had 3 poinsettias that didn't do well due to the greenhouse they are in. Both the fertilizer injector and the heater are not working properly. A work order has been in the system for a year but still no repair.
 - 9. Have noticed that our stock is depleting quicker because of the farmers market, so need to increase plants grown.
 - b. Equipment, Landscape, Building , Student housing proposal– Brian (for Tom)
 - 1. Student housing
 - a. We still have student housing on campus and when spots becoming available students can move their trailer on campus.
 - b. There is a facilities project to create a few more spaces since we do need the additional help.
 - 2. Equipment
 - a. Have been able to new tractors, gators, trencher that is on tracks, rototiller, sod cutter, mowers, turf broadcast spreaders, back sprayers, portable spreaders, moisture indicators, etc.

- b. Landscape
 - i. Finished a 2 year project with Rainbird at the park. 40x 40
 - ii. Will be cutting out the dead sod outside the building.
 - c. Turf, IPM, Student Success, Events – Brian
 - i. Farm Day May 3, 2016 (9am-2pm)
 - ii. Debbie Boroch Science Day: “Sustainability”, May 14, 2016
 - 1. Register online for \$5 which includes a t-shirt and In-N-Out lunch
 - 2. Flyers sent out to local schools, can accommodate about 200-250 students
 - 3. Theme is “Be Loyal to Your Soil”
 - 4. If you have questions, you can send them to Brian and he will forward them to Maya Padilla is our rep on the committee.
 - iii. Agriculture Banquet: Friday June 3, 2016 from 6-10pm
 - iv. Turf Teams – Student Challenge, January 19-23, 2016 (San Diego)
 - 1. 9 Students attending this year, fully funded
 - 2. West Coast Turf is donating the T-shirts.
 - v. AT&T Pro-Am at Spyglass Hill February 10-14, 2016
 - 1. Approx 8 students will attend with Brian, generally funded by each student.
 - vi. Scholarship Award Winners: STMA National Awards: Sean McLaughlin and Ashley Simpkins; Street Tree Seminar: Gretchen Heimlich
 - 1. Tend to have more scholarships in the Spring.
 - vii. Job Placements:
 - 1. Disney hired Gretchen Heimlich and a few others
 - d. VTEA, P.I.E. – Jennifer
 - i. VTEA
 - ii. Funding for 2015
 - 1. Provides funding for vocational programs and to improve the program
 - 2. Can towards improvements, not ongoing improvements.
 - 3. Application comes up about 2 weeks before it is due and until it comes out, we are unaware of the focus of the grant will be for that year. So it makes it difficult to plan for the December advisory meeting.
 - 4. As we get closer to the application deadline, you will receive an urgent email towards the end of march asking for your approval of the equipment that we are requesting.
 - 5. The district provides \$200 per year per faculty towards conferences, so VTEA provides funding for CATA, STMA, and the CATA mid winter conferences based on our requests. If there are any new ones that come up that we feel we should attend we will notify you of those as well
 - 6. We also receive funding for in classroom student assistants to help with questions and helping students but to also have an extra set of eyes for safety reasons.
 - 7. We also received funding for Ag Ambassadors, who go to schools to promote our program and inform students of careers in agriculture.
 - 8. We need your approval for all of these items because we have to submit our minutes of our meetings with the application when it is submitted.

So at least these items will be listed and then once we determine the equipment we would like to order, we will send you an email listing the equipment that we are requesting with a draft of the application attached.

9. The amounts that we were funded for Horticulture was \$15,801 initially but have received extra funding in the spend-down process.
 10. Spend down is when other programs were funded for items and when they don't use all of their money or can't, the money gets redistributed again.
 11. Our overall Ag department received \$99,896. The largest amount we received in the past was \$46k. We are receiving more than the \$99k due to the spend-down process.
- iii. Jennifer was recognized for all of her hard work with the VTEA process.
 - iv. PIE
 1. PIE is Planning Institutional Effectiveness
 2. Every year we have to put together a report that initially goes to the division and then eventually works its way through the administration.
 3. It is the planning for how they are going to make decisions of what to fix or what to spend money on. To determine the priorities, so our report is our requests with our goals and issues. We include even small items like getting a heater fixed or broken panes on a greenhouse.
 4. It is a huge detailed document that takes 1-2 days as a department to discuss our needs. Then we have to link everything to goals, so it is time consuming and tedious document. It does tie back into VTEA which provides support to our VTEA request and vice versa.
7. Enrollment Data: Future meetings will contain information on this topic
 - a. Initially could probably run a report that shows how many students are claiming the majors and our seat counts.
 - b. For other types of data would have to work on getting access to reports or having IT create them.
 8. Curriculum Review – Brian
 - a. AGOR 35 – Ornamental Plants for Southwest Climates will be offered this spring on Fridays
 - i. Valerie Lowe will teach the class
 - ii. Some labs will be held at Rancho Santa Ana
 - iii. Dave Lannom will provide plant list to Nicholas Staddon. He would like to take a look and see if there are any suggestions he could add to the list.
 - b. Curriculum updates for Title V compliance (regular review and revision):
 - i. Brian is asking for a motion to approve these courses and the changes made for the four year review process.
 - ii. Jennifer Hinostraza – Motioned to approve
 - iii. Danny Hughes – 2nd the motion
 - iv. All approved

AGAG 1	Food Production, Land Use and Politics - A Global Perspective
AGAG 99	Special Projects in Agriculture – Is a non-compensation class that allows student to do a landscape project (for an example) and earn credits for the class. It is offered when needed.
AGOR 14	Advanced Landscape Design
AGOR 32	Landscaping and Nursery Management – Dave Lannom has 2 new textbooks to add
AGOR 39	Turf Grass Production and Management
AGOR 40	Sports Turf Management
AGOR 54	Small Engine Repair II
AGOR 91	Work Experience in Nursery Operations – Would like to change the name to Horticulture Operations

9. Next Meeting – May 12, 2016, 1:00pm-3:30pm

10. Old Business

a. Disney Trees Opportunity

- i. At the time the opportunity came up, we didn't feel we could support the project in our current state since we were already short-handed.
- ii. There is a concern about some of the trees on the list since they have not been grown in Southern California in recent years or ever
- iii. John Schrimsher stated there is still interest from Disney so if there are 5 trees on the list that we want to commit to and then we could have that discussion. It has to be a win win in order to make it worthwhile.
- iv. Nicholas Staddon suggested that a small committee meet in January to discuss the opportunity and make a decision if we move forward or take it off the table. Meeting will be on January 20, 2016 at 11am at the Horticulture Unit.

11. New Business

- a. Antoine Thomas suggested he could help with the enrollment data using the new SARS system. We could have students enter their major on the first day of class and he would love to come and help.