

**Imperial Valley College
Agriculture Program
First Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes
October 4, 2016**

Attendees

1. Linsey Dale, Executive Director, Imperial County Farm Bureau
2. Efrain Silva, Dean of Economic and Workforce Development, Imperial Valley College
3. Richard (Woody) Fenley, RDO Equipment Co.
4. Andres Martinez, Business & Agriculture Department Chair
5. Joe Dan Cameron, Mesquite Cattle
6. Dr. Jairo Diaz, Director Desert Research and Extension Center Agriculture and Natural Resources Division University of California
7. Dr. Oli Bachie, University of California Cooperative Extension
8. Lindsay Cox, Holtville FFA
9. Gerardo Roman, Calexico FFA
10. Dr. Michael Kanyi, Assistant Professor of Agriculture
11. Tyler Davis, IVC Ag. club president

Absent

1. Jeff Plourd, El Toro Exports (Excused)

The meeting was held at the Imperial Farm Bureau Auditorium.

The meeting was called to order by Efrain Silva at 4:35 PM.

1. Dean Efrain gave an overview of the present status of the agriculture program at IVC. Mr. Efrain informed the committee that the associate degree for transfer (ADT) in Business Management has been approved. He informed the committee that a second degree, associate in Agriculture Crop Science, which is also an ADT in waiting, is at chancellor's office pending determination of the chemistry course which is a requirement for approval of this course as an ADT. Mr. Silva requested the representatives from the industry to appraise the current courses in the two associate and two certificate programs.
2. Andres Martinez gave an overview of statistics on the students 'enrollment and graduation. He stated that, in addition to the associate programs, there are two certificate programs, each aligned to the two associate degrees. The certificate programs are structured to meet agricultural needs in the wider imperial valley and beyond.
3. Richard (Woody) Fenley emphasized on the need for certificate programs that will meet the needs of about 80% of the local agriculture students who may not be able to pursue further education due to socio-economic and related challenges. He proposed a certificate course in "Agricultural Produce and Food Safety."

4. Dr. Jairo suggested that there is a need for change of course title/name to align with the content taught and the current trend in agriculture industry and the employers' needs. This idea was supported by the participants, and the current certificate course in agricultural science was found to be sufficient for a name/course title change to "Agricultural Production and Food Safety."
5. Dr. Oli Bachie observed that there is a need to include a biology course to strengthen the certificate and associate programs. It was also suggested that agronomy or plant science course be introduced. These courses should be taught in the first semester.
6. Joe Cameron indicated that introduction of relevant courses such certificate in veterinary services and strengthening internships for hands-on experience is vital. Since raising cattle is still a big business in Imperial Valley, Joe suggested strengthening of a general course in animal production.
7. Lindsay Cox reported that there is a state-wide shortage of agriculture teachers, and that Imperial County is not exceptional. Lindsay suggested that there is a need to explore how IVC can introduce agricultural education courses for transfer along with the associate degrees in agriculture for students wishing to become agriculture teachers. She mentioned that Dr. Kanyi, whose discipline is agricultural education, is better positioned to and could conveniently work with targeted universities to design and implement agricultural education courses.
8. Gerardo Roman proposed collaboration between IVC and California State Polytechnic University Pomona and University of Arizona in designing and implementing agricultural education transfer courses for prospective agriculture teachers.
9. Tyler Davis, who is aspiring to become a high school agriculture teacher supported introduction of agricultural education courses, and also proposed a major in agricultural education for prospective agriculture teachers.
10. It was suggested and unanimously supported by committee members that the course, "Computer applications in agriculture" should be elevated to a "required course" and be redesigned to cover the software programs that are currently used by producers at the Imperial Valley.
11. The committee proposed designing and introduction of a course to be called "Farm equipment" or "Introduction to agricultural mechanics."
12. Dr. Oli suggested that one faculty member may not have expertise to teach all the agriculture courses hence need for an instructor.

13. Richard Fenley suggested that IVC could benefit through collaborative research and instruction with other partners on utilization of the 10-acre land. Linsey Dale supported the idea of bringing on board industry partners for professional and technical support in farm layout and choice of crops.
Dr. Jairo suggested that as a start, a project that will utilize a small portion of the 10 acres should be considered.
14. Mr. Richard “Woody” Fenley was unanimously elected as the chair of the committee.
15. Mr. Andres Martinez gave the vote of thanks to all the participant and reminded all that the meeting did not exhaust all the areas. He indicated that there will be a follow-up meeting soon.
16. The meeting was adjourned at 6:05PM