

**CSU Stanislaus Ag Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2011
American AgCredit Office**

- I. **Welcome:** The meeting was called to order by Bill Mattos at 3:00 p.m.
- II. **Status of the Program and Changes:** Dr. Mark Bender
 - A. Student Enrollment and Graduates:
 - There are currently 90-100 students in the Ag Studies program, registered for classes at the university and junior colleges.
 - A total of 26 Ag Studies students graduated during the 2011 academic year.
 - B. Agricultural Studies Major Core and Concentration Changes:
 - The University Educational Policies Committee (UEPC) approved the core and concentration changes proposed as a result of the deactivation of Ag Marketing and Ag Management courses within the College of Business.
 - Other changes include changing the name of the Ag Business/Econ concentration to Ag Economics and the name of the Permaculture concentration to Sustainable Agriculture.
 - The Ag Studies Professional Development and Sustainable Agriculture courses were moved into the core courses for the major.
 - C. Department Reorganization:
 - The Agricultural Studies Department has been combined with the Economics Department and the Social Sciences Program in consideration of the current budget and to better serve students.
 - Dr. Edward Erickson will act as Department Chair for the remainder of the academic year and an election will be held in the spring for a new chair.
 - Dr. Bender will continue as the Director of the Ag Studies program.
 - Dr. James Tuedio, Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, explained the budgetary rationale behind the department reorganization.
- III. **Degree Designation and Major Change:** Dr. Mark Bender
 - A request for a degree designation change is under discussion to change the Bachelor of Arts in Agricultural Studies degree to a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Studies degree. This change would increase the recognition of CSU

Stanislaus Ag Studies graduates within the agriculture industry and would be consistent with the degrees of other universities.

- A discussion was held regarding the endorsement of the degree name change by the Ag Advisory Committee.

IV. Food Science Program Concept: Dr. Mark Bender

- A discussion was held regarding the plans of Dr. Ham Shirvani, CSU Stanislaus President, for a Food Science program.
- Dr. Bender shared his vision of the present Ag Studies program, which has graduated 85 students, currently employed throughout the state.
- Dr. Bender shared his concerns that a Food Science program would detract from the present program and would create a conflict with other universities. Another concern is that the Food Science program is not a faculty driven initiative, but is being investigated by the President's own agriculture advisory committee.
- Dr. Bender stated that he conducted a food science survey in 2006, which indicated that there is reason to explore Food Science as a concentration within the current program, but not as a separate degree program.

Motion: In a unanimous vote the CSU Stanislaus Ag Advisory Committee supports the new Ag Studies program that is now combined with Economics and Social Sciences and urges the administration to support filling the position of the Endowed Chair as this new department moves forward. The Advisory Committee also felt that while it understands that there may be some changes sought in the coming years, the current Ag Studies program that features the two plus two program with our junior colleges and four-year majors at the university has been an outstanding program serving students from throughout California and should continue as a vital part of any future agriculture program at the university. M-Margo Souza/S-Mark Anglin.

V. *Tastes of the Valley* Update: Dr. Mark Bender

- Chris Borovansky, Chief Executive Officer of the Stanislaus County Fair, described the partnership between the Friends of the Fair Foundation and the Ag Studies program, a collaborative effort to raise funds for Ag Studies students and Stanislaus County youth, and described the financial agreement, in concept, between the two entities.
- As a result of the partnership, the 2011 event will include an expanded silent and live auction, as well as the inclusion of restaurants offering their specialties to attendees.

- Rabobank, with a \$5,000 donation, will act as Presenting Sponsor for the 2011 event.
- Dr. Bender shared the Corporate Sponsor, Winery, Product Donor, and Silent Auction Donor lists with the committee, and requested that they indicate if they have a personal contact with any of the sponsors or donors that they would be willing to pursue.
- A discussion was held regarding the design of the silent and live auctions.

VI. The meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Wendy Olmstead,
Administrative Support Coordinator,
Agricultural Studies