

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF MEETING
STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

October 5, 1966
Hartnell Jr. College, Salinas

ROLL CALL

Present

Advisory Committee Members

Robert Smith
Herman Sperber
Fred Frick

Absent

Norman Boeger
Glen Eidman
Milton Kidd
Willis Stribling
Theodore Todd
ALLAN GRANN

Bureau Staff and Guests

Don Wilson
Warren Reed
Emile LaSalle
Leland Ruth
Bob Pedersen
Ralph Mathews
Dave Graf
Lyman Fowler
Earl Penix
Dr. Wm. Harwood

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 A.M. by Chairman Fred Frick. Greetings were extended to the group by Lyman Fowler, Director of the East Campus, Hartnell Junior College. The introduction of guests was handled by Don Wilson. New bureau staff members, Warren Reed and Ralph Mathews, were introduced by Dave Graf.

The minutes of the 1966 spring meeting were summarized by Don Wilson and approved by the committee.

Comments on Recent
Developments in
Agricultural Education

Mr. Wilson commented that the enrollments in vocational agriculture last school year were a little over 18,000. This coming year at least 19,000 are expected. Four new FFA chapters are scheduled to be chartered and several more are anticipated. He stated that the bureau has just received conformation on a contract with Cal Poly which would provide for in-service training of teachers in Ornamental Horticulture Curriculum Development. Under this agreement horticultural specialists will be available to work with the schools on a continuing basis. At a later date there is a possibility of moving into Natural Resources and Rural Recreation.

The Advisory Committee summer conference panel at the agricultural teachers' convention was well received and proved to be a valuable contribution to the program.

He also pointed out that the National FFA Convention was scheduled for the middle of October and that several major constitutional revisions were being proposed. They are as follows:

- a) Extension of FFA to the junior college level
- b) Opening FFA to all students enrolled in vocational agriculture, under the Vocational Education Acts and Reapportionment of delegates, according to state membership

Very little additional information is available on reorganization of the State Department of Education. Preliminary reports have dealt mainly with the junior college system. He indicated that it appears to be only a matter of time before the junior colleges separate from the State Department of Education. A final report of Arthur D. Little is due early this coming year.

New California Exposition and State Fair

Wilson reported that approximately ten years ago the Bureau was asked to submit a plan for the needs of F.F.A. This was done. About five years ago the new concept came into being. About two years ago the Bureau was again asked what we would need in the way of livestock space and other facilities. We responded in detail, outlining specifically what would be needed. The research agency employed by the new State Fair board evidently ignored our recommendations completely, as in April of 1966 we were invited to a meeting, at which we were told we had 85,000 square feet total space for both 4-H and F.F.A.

We were also asked to pick a date between June 1st and August 6th for our show. This would be at a time separate from 4-H. We found that there was not a period during the time suggested when we would not run into major conflicts with other activities. Consequently, we refused to accept the proposal of moving our fair dates. We also indicated that sufficient space should be made available to hold a combined F.F.A. and 4-H show.

Since raising this objection there have been a number of special meetings on this general subject. At a meeting of the legislative committee of the State Fairs and Allocations in August our position was given a great deal of support by committee members and by other interested groups that were requested to testify. To this date, however, no action has been taken. A joint meeting of a legislative committee and representatives of the new State Fair Executive Committee is scheduled for November 21, 1966.

If we wind up with a fair in July it will greatly restrict our participation. In any event, we will work it out the best we can. We will keep you informed and may be calling on you for more help.

Guidelines for
Establishment of
Junior College
Vocational Agri-
culture Programs

The committee decided that this was a subject that needed the attention of the full committee. The subject was deferred until the next meeting.

California Farm Equip-
ment Dealers' Association
and Manufacturers

Wilson reported that the Farm Equipment Dealers' Association is interested in cooperating in an advisory program with the Bureau. He suggested that it might be better to include representation from this segment of agricultural industry as part of our regular Advisory Committee, rather than setting up a new committee. Action on this was deferred until the next meeting.

Recent Developments
in Agriculture

Herman Sperber - Holtville: Disastrous rains have wiped out most plantings in our area this fall. This, combined with very hot weather, will result in a short sugar beet acreage. We are frantically looking for satisfactory weed control measures. We must either find a selective spray that will kill weeds in beets or quit growing them. We cannot afford the use of hand labor. If we have to, we will lose \$80. an acre.

The beet industry is in trouble statewide. Labor costs are too high. Many farmers are shifting to the low labor crops, such as: barley, corn, flax and letting the high labor crops go to Mexico.

At present, the 160-acre limitation problem is riding quiet. Eventually, it looks like it will be wrapped around our necks. Already, in our area, it has cut land values by 2/3. Land-leasing is way down and there is no incentive to buy.

In all, we have a very depressed situation.

Bob Smith - Buttonwillow: Most irrigation districts in our area are making final arrangements for water from the State Water Project. By the spring of 1968 we will have water in Kern County from the canal. It is questionable as to what can be grown on the west side that will pay for the water.

Tomatoes may be the coming crop in Kern county. A great deal of additional work needs to go into learning how to grow the crops in our area. The prospects for this year's cotton crop are poor. We are noticing lots of boll worm damage. We are very much afraid of the pink boll worm. We desperately need a material that will control them. Many acres were diverted from cotton to alfalfa this year. We expected this to bring hay prices down but it hasn't come about. At present it looks good for the hay growers. Sugar beet acreage is also down in Kern county.

Fred Frick - Arvin: We have learned a lot about the tomato business this year. We now feel we have our labor trained to handle this type of crop. We are switching some acreage to cucumbers. We tried three FMC harvesting machines this year but they are not entirely satisfactory. Within five years they will probably be practical.

The feeders are having a difficult time. The price of feed is way up. A new hormone is now available to improve the feed conversion of heifers. This may put heifer conversion on a comparable basis with steers. Our feeders are going to have a difficult time surviving the competition from the southwest. Agriculture, in general, is in bad shape, due to increased labor costs, taxes and higher interest rates.

Hartnell Jr. College
Program

Mr. Penix reported that facility-wise Hartnell did not, at the present time, have a great deal to show. He indicated that their new president has a strong interest in vocational training and that within a few years they will be very competitive. The faculty are looking forward to this as a real challenge. He outlined a three-point program for improvement.

1. Enrollment - A major effort will be made to get class size up to a point where they will be economically sound.
2. Curriculum Development - A survey is currently under way which will project the need for new courses at Hartnell.
3. Housekeeping - Every effort will be made to turn out the type of student that is able to contribute to his job experience.

Time & Place of
Spring Meeting

The next meeting was tentatively set for March 8 in Los Angeles. By selecting this location, the committee hoped to get a better look at the agricultural education program in the Los Angeles City School system.

Respectfully submitted,

Leland H. Ruth, Acting Secretary
for Willis Stribling