

AD HOC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Minutes

State Education Bldg, Rm 118
Sacramento, California
April 5, 1972

Members Present

- William DuBois - Environmental Chairman, California Farm Bureau Federation
and farmer, Imperial Valley
- Richard Johnsen - Executive Secretary, Agricultural Council of California,
Sacramento
- Arthur Harwood - Forest products, Branscomb Enterprises, Mendocino County
- Ralph Nissen - Rice grower, Colusa County
- Robert Sapien - Landscape contractor, Los Angeles County
- Fred Stewart - Agricultural equipment and services contractor, Ventura County
- Gene Benedetti - Manager, Petaluma Cooperative Creamery, Sonoma County
- Richard Cotta - Genetics, Inc. artificial inseminator, Stanislaus County

Staff

D. E. Wilson	E. M. Juergenson
S. I. Beck	W. D. Reed
H. H. Burlingham	

Approval was received by the Bureau of Agricultural Education to convene an ad hoc advisory committee meeting based on the following:

Need - The University of California at Davis has completed a study of agricultural education. The study was funded directly by the U. S. Office of Education at considerable expense. This study makes various recommendations concerning the secondary vocational agriculture programs. These recommendations need to be reviewed by laymen representing the agricultural industry. The Bureau of Agricultural Education staff has reviewed the study and has recommended changes for high school vocational agriculture programs. We would like to have our recommendations reviewed. The advisory committee may want to make additional suggestions and recommendations.

Goal - To obtain an industry review of the Agricultural Education Study as it relates to high school vocational agriculture programs and to review the staff recommendations for program changes.

Performance Objective - By May 15, 1972, complete a lay review of the recommendations of the Agricultural Education Study and the staff suggestions for modification of high school programs.

Expected Outcomes - The accomplishment of the performance objective, with follow-up by Bureau of Agricultural Education staff, will result in improved local agriculture programs.

The meeting was called to order by Donald Wilson at 9:10 a.m. The purposes of the committee were reviewed and the recommendations, conclusions, and findings of the Agricultural Education Study were reviewed.

Richard Johnsen suggested that Don Wilson bring the committee up to date as to the bureau's plans concerning study recommendations. He also indicated that he obtained a negative reaction from pages 7, 8, and 9 of the study and got the impression from these pages that "we have a good program--let's not change it." The study pointed up little on interdisciplinary coordination and did point up some separatism.

Robert Sapien agreed with page 5 of the study which indicated future demand for people trained in the agricultural occupations. He noted, however, that trained people are not available.

Arthur Harwood commented that local districts have changed names of programs to make them vocational but that the content of the courses have not changed significantly. He does not agree with the statement on page 5 of the study that relates to the need for forestry and lumber workers. He indicated that there is a need for occupationally trained people, especially in wood products. There may not be a large need for "foresters." It was mentioned that sampling done in the study was not heavy in the North Coast area and that some of the study recommendations tend to be regional in nature. Mr. Harwood also commented that communication between industry and the schools was not a problem in the Willits district. There is extensive work experience and on-the-job training occurring during the week, after school hours, and on weekends and holiday or vacation periods.

Robert Sapien commented that the work experience type programs are good but that unions are a real problem in connection with these types of programs in the Los Angeles area. William DuBois indicated that there is a big difference in employability of a person who knows how, why, and when to use agricultural equipment and an individual who just knows how to operate the equipment. Mr. Sapien commented that a serious problem in the Los Angeles area is that a student, when he finishes high school, cannot get a union card. He also noted that students employed in agriculture in equipment operation tend to be paid less than those in industrial heavy equipment operation.

At this point in the meeting the program changes recommended by the bureau staff were reviewed.

1. Organization of high school vocational agriculture courses into programs in the seven USOE categorical classifications of the agricultural occupations

- Production Agriculture
- Agricultural Mechanics
- Agricultural Products
- Ornamental Horticulture
- Agricultural Resources
- Forestry
- Agricultural Supplies/Services

The program would involve a basic course and specialized course offerings.

Richard Johnsen asked how students would be introduced into the various areas of agriculture. It was indicated that this would be done in the basic course.

Gene Benedetti indicated that there needed to be some type of testing system to assist students in a career selection.

Robert Sapien commented that if the name of the basic or core course were titled "Basic Agriculture", it would turn students off.

Fred Stewart mentioned that the basic or core course might include environment in the title.

Ralph Nissen agreed with the basic course and seven program approach but was concerned about teacher ability or competency to handle the basic course and the seven specializations. There was discussion to the effect that small schools might offer only the basic course and two or three specializations. The possibility of schools or districts sharing staff was discussed. It was mentioned that a student's occupational program in agriculture could be programmed to include courses in other occupational areas than agriculture. An interdisciplinary approach should be encouraged.

2. Instruction in the skill of supervising people should be introduced in the curriculum.

Richard Johnsen urged that more attention be devoted to labor management. Curriculum material on skills in supervision was reviewed and it was indicated that this material would be included in the future curriculum guidelines.

3. Cooperative Vocational Education in Agriculture should be expanded.

Fred Stewart asked for an explanation of how the on-the-job experience was supervised. The committee agreed that cooperative programs do much for the improvement of industry-school communications. There was considerable support from the committee for the expansion of cooperative vocational education in agriculture.

4. More agricultural mechanics instruction should be provided in high school and existing programs should be improved.

Fred Stewart commented that the basics of agricultural mechanics need emphasis. The committee concurred that agricultural and industrial mechanics needed emphasis in vocational programs.

5. Career orientation should be emphasized with beginning vo-ag students.

There was considerable discussion of career, especially as to how it was different from or related to career education. The committee expressed concern that career education seemed to be going off in several directions at once. There are a number of task forces or groups and many districts working on career education with little apparent communication between the groups.

There was additional discussion as to what should be the title of the "basic" course in vocational agriculture; suggestions included General Environmental Science, Agriculture in the Environment, The Industry of Agriculture. There was some discussion of agricultural mechanics. Indications are that agricultural mechanics needs to be defined and some explanation is needed as to how it differs from other mechanics courses.

6. Business and labor management should be included in the secondary curriculum.

The committee discussed the problem of what should be the target at the high school level. It was indicated that curriculum guides should be developed.

7. A program to improve school-agricultural industry communications needs to be developed and implemented.

Fred Stewart commented that industry people are generally so involved in their own operations that the initiative for industry-school communications must come from the school. Many advisory committees seem to be a "white-wash" with the result that communications are superficial. Advisory committees do not seem to be effective.

Gene Benedetti indicated that one of the biggest problems in education is that the system has passed all responsibility to the educators. The community is responsible. "We don't have more vocational education because educators don't want it."

Richard Cotta suggested that educators need to show more initiative in industry-education communications.

William DuBois felt that employing teachers in the industry during the summer months would improve communications. It was suggested that teachers may need to be subsidized to go back to industry. EPDA funds should be utilized to encourage teachers to get current industry experience. There was an explanation of vo-ag teachers' typical summer assignments.

Fred Stewart and William DuBois encouraged that a sabbatical system be implemented for back to industry experience. It was thought by the committee that industry could absorb up to 400 vo-ag teachers each year for some industrial

experience. William DuBois felt that both industry and the schools could participate in financially supporting the back-to-industry program. It was generally agreed that teachers would need to be paid and should not be expected to devote vacation time to this activity.

8. Student-teacher ratio should be decreased.

William DuBois questioned if student-teacher ratios needed to be decreased per se. Couldn't instruction be improved by the use of LAPS or teacher aides? Robert Sapien encouraged the use of teacher aides. The possibility of partial assignments was mentioned. Fred Stewart asked what was being done in student recruitment and indicated the real problem in student-teacher ratio is money.

Some general comments concerning the meeting included the need for emphasizing Selling or Sales. There was committee support for the program approach and the seven specialized areas. The committee members requested a list of the schools that are conducting cooperative vocational education programs in agriculture.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

Travel and per diem cost of the ad hoc advisory committee: \$260.11

...the school and the school ...
...the school and the school ...
...the school and the school ...

...the school and the school ...
...the school and the school ...
...the school and the school ...

...the school and the school ...
...the school and the school ...
...the school and the school ...

...the school and the school ...

...the school and the school ...