

AGRICULTURAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of May 24, 1982

State Education Building
Sacramento, California

Members Present:

Laura Tower, Chairperson	Jack Chappell
Patrick W. Emery, Vice Chairperson	Jan Eberly
Kenneth M. Aoyama	Joe Martinez
David Austin	Tracy Schortman
Joe Camarillo	Marden Wilber, Jr.

Members Not Present:

Jack Richardson	Robert Trigg
John Thurman	

Staff Present:

Jean Landeen	Marion Raymond
Patricia B. Langlin	Donald E. Wilson
Janet McCormick	

Others present for all or part of the meeting:

John Baber, Office of Senator Jim Nielsen
Gino Farinelli, President, Central Region, CATA
John Gemper, California Farm Bureau
Ken Harris, Calif. Agricultural Teachers Assn.
Marsha Johnson, Office of Assemblyman John Thurman
Nadine Wright, California Women for Agriculture

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Chairperson Laura Tower. Mrs. Tower indicated that Mr. Emery has been named Vice-Chairperson of the Advisory Committee. All present introduced themselves. The agenda was adopted as presented.

Minutes - April 23, 1982. The minutes of April 23 were approved as distributed.

Future Meeting Schedule. The following meeting schedule was adopted:

June 29	October 26
July 20	November 23
August 24	December 14
September 28	

All meetings, with the exception of July 20, will be held in Room 166-A in the State Education Building. The July 20 meeting will be in Room 165.

Update on Organizational Plan. Mrs. Langlin reported that she and Dr. McKinley met with Senator Jim Nielsen on May 12 and presented the Department's proposal regarding the implementation of SB 187. Senator Nielsen accepted this proposal.

...The State Supervisor of Agricultural Vocational Education will report directly to the State Director of Vocational Education.

...The staff of the Agricultural Vocational Education Unit, besides the State Supervisor, will include one student organization consultant to be located in Sacramento and five consultants located in the regional offices. These consultants will devote 100% of their time to Agricultural Vocational Education and will report directly to the State Supervisor.

Mrs. Langlin and Mr. Wilson are working toward the implementation of this proposal. It has been mutually agreed that many details need to be worked out in order for this plan to be implemented smoothly. Mrs. Langlin will notify Senator Nielsen that she and Mr. Wilson have agreed the proposal will not be implemented by June 1 as originally planned. Mrs. Langlin and Mr. Wilson are meeting weekly to develop specific implementation plans, and Mrs. Langlin will be meeting with the staff of the Agricultural Vocational Education Unit during their annual planning meeting the first week of June. A current organizational chart was distributed (copy attached), as well as several charts showing previous organizational patterns in Vocational Education.

A concern was identified about how the five regional supervisors will serve the existing seven regions, and this is an item which Mrs. Langlin and Mr. Wilson will be discussing.

Old Business. The motion on which action was postponed at the April 23 meeting was reconsidered. The motion was: "The committee send a letter to Superintendent Riles recommending that the agricultural vocational education unit created by SB 187 include the seven regional supervisors." Mr. Chappell, who made the motion, commented that it appears the problem has been solved. He still has concerns, but it appears the bill has been implemented to the satisfaction of Senator Nielsen. The motion was withdrawn, and there were no objections.

Curriculum Development. Jean Landeen, Regional Supervisor, Agricultural Vocational Education, Oakland Regional Office, gave a presentation on curriculum development. Areas considered in the development of agricultural vocational education curriculum include outcome, identification of skills, logical order, materials assistance, in-service, testing, adapt/adopt, and goals-opportunities-resources. Materials now available include Introduction to Agriculture, Agriculture Production (Vols. I & II), Agriculture Products and Processing, Agriculture Sales and Service, Agriculture Mechanics, Ornamental Horticulture, Forestry, Rural Recreation, and Natural Resources.

Some problems in getting this curriculum into local districts/schools include limited resources, external incentives, the State Plan does not discuss what should be in Agricultural Education curriculum, scheduling, counseling, and providing assistance.

Curriculum development now in process include updating of existing curriculum (three were updated last year), materials for teaching students with special needs, and a teachers' process for selecting new directions.

Future needs include continued support for updating and development of Vo-Ag curriculum, provision for non-Vo-Ag curriculum, guidance for lower grades, and articulation with both lower grades and higher levels.

Mr. Camarillo asked if any Ag teachers also serve as counselors, and Ms. Landeen responded that there are very few. However, Ag teachers frequently meet and work with individual students, which can be of assistance to counselors.

Gino Farinelli, who is an Ag teacher at Escalon High School, provided a perspective from the teacher's viewpoint. He discussed how CATA and FFA work together and described the organizational structure for each. He identified the many responsibilities/activities of Ag teachers, including classroom responsibilities, FFA activities, and the supervised occupational experience program (SOEP). They are also involved in after-school and weekend activities.

Mr. Farinelli discussed the importance to teachers of the state regional supervisors; he indicated the importance of visiting schools to assist teachers. New teachers especially need assistance, and many teachers are coming from non-Ag backgrounds. Also, students are coming from urban settings, rather than rural. He identified a number of areas where regional supervisors could be of assistance, such as establishing advisory committees, program evaluations, coordination of in-service activities, and contacts with industry. He also feels there is a need for mandated program standards, such as class size; there would be a need for funds to assist in meeting mandated program standards.

Ms. Eberly posed the question of how many Ag students have the full spectrum of classroom, FFA, and SOEP. Mr. Wilson indicated a survey is being conducted in 13 western states regarding how many Ag students have projects, and he anticipates this information will be available by the next meeting. He noted that there are 45,800 Vo-Ag students in California, of which about 18,000 are FFA members. The FFA members are probably the only ones who have projects. Probably less than one-third of the Vo-Ag students have SOEP.

The committee identified the following concerns which need to be addressed:

1. Reduced class size
2. Regional Supervisor contact
3. In-service training
4. Program evaluation
5. More effective counseling
6. Adequate funding (incentives) (change a.d.a. formula for Ag)
7. Vo-Ag teacher standards
8. K-14 class guidelines
9. Instructional program standards
10. Reorganization of Voc. Ed. Unit - 5 Reg. Supvrs. vs. 7 regions
11. More general Ag awareness

Mr. Emery discussed local autonomy and the fact that local allocations are determined primarily by federal regulations. He does feel there is a need to explore the possibility of increased funding. He requested information from the Department regarding the amount of leverage the advisory committee might have to influence funding levels.

Mr. Martinez suggested establishing priorities, and the advisory committee identified the following:

- State Plan for Vocational Agricultural Education
- Curriculum
- Delivery System
- Standards
- Outreach
- Legislative Strategy

Mr. Wilson indicated that a 5-Year Plan for Agricultural Education was developed a number of years ago.

Mr. Emery expressed a concern about the quality of new Ag teachers and therefore the quality of their training. He would like to involve representative teacher educators and the coordinating authority at a future meeting. Representatives from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and the University of California were suggested. Mrs. Tower commented that it appears the advisory committee wants to continue as a hearing body to obtain additional information.

Committee Membership. The committee discussed the role of Marsha Johnson when she attends as Assemblyman Thurman's representative. The committee agreed that Ms. Johnson will serve as a member of the committee when Assemblyman Thurman is unable to attend.

The suggestion was made to add an alternate-at-large to the advisory committee. Mr. Wilson suggested a representative of the California Association of Nurserymen be considered, and Mr. Austin asked about representation from the California Farm Bureau. The committee agreed to have one member-at-large.

Mrs. Langlin commented that the Department received many recommendations for members of the advisory committee; and in making the appointments, we tried for broad coverage of the agricultural community, while keeping the committee to working size. The possibility of expanding as subcommittees start to work was mentioned.

Communications from Observers. Nadine Wright, State Legislative Director for California Women in Agriculture, indicated interest in some kind of class or unit within a class such as Economics or Social Studies on "Economics of Food," which could possibly be a two-week unit. Mr. Wilson noted that consumer outreach is one of the responsibilities of the advisory committee. Mr. Martinez commented that the California Farm Bureau Women are also working in this area.

Ken Harris, Executive Secretary, California Agricultural Teachers Association, expressed approval of the committee's identified priority for a State Plan for Vocational Agricultural Education. Mrs. Langlin indicated it is planned to address all of vocational education in the development of a state master plan. Mr. Harris responded that he feels the committee should be concerned only with vocational agricultural education.

John Gemper indicated the California Farm Bureau is pleased with developments during the last several weeks on the implementation of SB 187. He also noted that the Farm Bureau had hoped to have representation on the advisory committee.

CATA Meeting, San Luis Obispo. Mr. Harris indicated a session has been scheduled at CATA on Tuesday evening, June 22, which will provide an opportunity for Ag teachers to talk with committee members. Letters of invitation will be sent to advisory committee members. It was agreed that committee members who attend this session will report back to the full advisory committee.

Six committee members plan to attend: Ken Aoyama, Joe Camarillo, Jack Chappell, Jan Eberly, Tracy Schortman, and Marden Wilber. Mr. Camarillo will chair the group. Areas of possible discussion were identified:

- ...Dream - what changes would you like to see made?
- ...What a teacher needs from a state plan - standards?
- ...How do you feel about a state plan?
- ...What kinds of directions do teachers want from regional supervisors?
- ...What kinds of educational standards in the teacher education program?
- ...Specific input - especially as it relates to the 11 identified concerns
- ...Acceptance of Vo-Ag classes as college preparatory
- ...Effect of high school proficiency testing on the Ag program

Ag Staff Report. Mr. Wilson indicated that there is a staff committee, plus teacher educators, developing material in a number of areas; and most of this material would be available for the June meeting. This material will include delivery system, product standards and process standards for both General Agriculture and Vocational Agriculture, and funding. Alternatives for funding may not be available until July.

Future Meeting Agendas. It was agreed the material being developed by the Ag staff will be discussed at the June 29 meeting. Teacher educators and possibly representatives from the Commission on Teacher Preparation and Licensing will be invited to make a presentation at the July meeting.

Mrs. Tower requested recommendations for speakers for future meetings. Ms. Johnson requested an update on organizational plans for the Agricultural Vocational Education Unit.

Ms. Eberly identified a problem with the timing of mailings to advisory committee members. Because of her schedule, she would like to have materials mailed more than a week in advance of meetings.

Mr. Martinez requested copies of sections from the Education Code which apply to agricultural education, and Mr. Harris indicated there is very little in the Education Code that applies specifically to agricultural education.

Mr. Emery identified a need to discuss a legislative strategy. He wants to be assured that recommendations/materials developed by the advisory committee will be implemented.

Materials to be distributed to the advisory committee prior to the June 29 meeting will include the five-year plan for Agricultural Education developed several years ago, as well as the materials which have been developed by the Ag staff relating to delivery system, product and process standards, and funding.

Following lunch, a moment of silence was observed in tribute to Howard Wackman, who passed away on May 23, 1982.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.