

AGRICULTURAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Sacramento CA

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 30, 1982

Members present:

Laura Tower, Chairperson
David Austin
Joe Camarillo
Jack Chappell
Jan Eberly
Patrick Emery
Mark Linder
Joe Martinez
Tracy Schortman

Members absent:

Kenneth Aoyama
Jack Richardson
John Thurman
Robert Trigg
Marden Wilber

Staff present:

Jerry Biggs
Jerry Davis
Pat Langlin
Genevieve Marsden
Don Wilson

Others present for all or part of the meeting:

Jim Eller, California Farm Bureau Federation, Sacramento
Dennis Hampton, Teacher Educator, CSU-Chico
Ken Harris, California Agricultural Teachers Association, Sacramento
Marsha Johnson, Sr. Consultant, Assembly Committee on Ag., Sacramento
Tom Bogetich, Calif. Advisory Council on Vocational Education, Sacramento

The meeting was held in Room 166-B of the State Education Building, 721 Capitol Mall, Sacramento. It was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson Laura Tower.

Mrs. Tower congratulated Jan Eberly on being elected President of the National FFA Organization and presented her with a small gift.

Adoption of Minutes, October 25-26, 1982

ACTION: It was moved by Mark Linder, seconded by David Austin that the minutes be adopted as submitted.

The motion passed.

Committee Business

Mrs. Tower read a letter from Ann Leavenworth, President of the State Board of Education, regarding a date for the Committee to present its report to the Board. They are to appear on January 14, 1983, at 9:00 a.m.

Mrs. Tower mentioned that Steve Olson, an Agricultural Instructor at Santa Rosa Junior College, had sent a letter to Patrick Emery, and that Mr. Emery would discuss it later in the meeting.

Staff Reports

Don Wilson reported on the matter of providing service to seven regions with only five regional supervisors. He discussed the difficulties encountered with the reassignment of duties to the five remaining supervisors. People in the field are starting to react to the loss of the two supervisors and the reduction in service to their regions. There are many conflicts with meeting dates and work overloads. The Central Region has experienced a one-third drop in FFA membership. Enrollment figures are not in yet, but there are indications that they also may have dropped. On October 7th, Don Wilson wrote to Pat Langlin, requesting some assistance from Sandy Beck and Warren Reed on FFA assignments in exchange for some help from the five other regional supervisors on Vocational Education assignments. To date, there has been no reply to his request.

Jerry Davis gave a presentation on the Future Farmers of America. He said that Joe Martinez had been elected to national office as Vice President of the Western Region and Jan Eberly had just been elected national FFA President. Between these two elections, three other individuals from California have been elected to national office; so California is playing an active and effective part in the National FFA Organization. He mentioned funding for FFA. He explained their dues structure and state legislation which has allocated money to vocational youth groups. This allocation originally was \$500,000. Each year it is subject to review and attempts have been made to cut it from the budget. Those attempts have been rejected so far, but this year the allocation was reduced to \$475,000. Mr. Davis also mentioned legislation by John Thurman which prohibits districts from charging fees for activities which are integral to instruction programs, such as FFA. He presented maps of California showing (a) the regional structure supervised by seven supervisors and (b) the current regional structure required by the loss of two supervisors. He stressed the difficulties which have arisen because of this reorganization. CATA and FFA constitutions call for seven regions. It is damaging to the esprit de corps and morale of members of both of these groups when a supervisor must split allegiance among two or more of the regions and there are numerous problems caused by work overloads, conflicts between meetings which are held on the same dates, and long hours spent traveling.

Joe Martinez asked if the Agricultural Education Unit would function better if regional supervisors were housed at CSU-Chico, CSU-Fresno, UC-Davis, Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo, and Cal Poly-Pomona. Mr. Davis replied that if the reorganization must remain at five, the transfer of the regional supervisors to these universities would put them in closer proximity with the

teacher training programs. This is a vital part of Agricultural Education, and having the regional supervisors housed closer to the institutions which provide these programs would be helpful. It might also save money since these universities have already offered to provide office space and some clerical assistance if such moves are made. Another problem which recently arose might be solved. Some of the regional coordinators have objected to regional supervisors sending out materials for regions other than their own. Mr. Martinez asked for clarification on this. Mr. Davis and Mr. Wilson explained that Jean Landeen, regional supervisor for the North Coast Region, has been assigned to pick up some of Sandy Beck's former assignments in the Central Region. When she needed to send materials to FFA Chapters in those areas, she was not permitted to do it in the Oakland Regional Office. She had to make a trip to the Central Region Office in Sacramento to mail the materials.

Earlier Mr. Davis mentioned that AB 8 funding for youth groups was reviewed each year and in connection with this, Mrs. Tower asked if FFA had to request funding each year for the Rocklin Leadership Conference. Mr. Davis replied in the affirmative, but he pointed out that it has been funded by industry for many years, not by the state. He said industry provides funds for many FFA activities such as project competition and leadership conferences. In the case of Rocklin, Crocker Bank has sponsored the conference for many years. Each year FFA applies to their Foundation, and they have generously supported it.

Jack Chappell said that in the San Joaquin Region several activities are supported by industry in this manner. He gave credit for this to the efforts of Jerry Biggs. Banking and industry representatives in the area know him well. He has been very effective in promoting the vo-ag program and FFA to them, and they have been generous in their support. Mr. Chappell said this is true in all seven of the regions. If they lose their supervisors, the programs in their regions are going to feel it very quickly in reduced financial support.

Joe Martinez asked if the Agricultural Education Unit would function better if the regional supervisors reported directly to the State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, who would then be in contact with the State Director of Vocational Education. Mr. Wilson replied that this procedure is being put into action.

Jack Chappel said that without the Agricultural Education Staff's dedication, the FFA and Vocational Agriculture programs would have fallen apart. People seem to have lost sight of this. He said the California Agricultural Teachers, Regional Supervisors, and Staff must work together to keep this program. All of the contacts he has had in the field have expressed concern about this.

Joe Martinez said regional supervisors need to be in direct contact with teachers at local education agencies, and asked if this will still be done. Mr. Davis said it is continuing, but with the five regional supervisors having substantially larger areas, contact will be substantially less. Under the seven regional supervisor system, Mr. Wilson asked that

each school be visited at least once each year. Agricultural Education is the only subject matter program that has held to this system. It has proven to be extremely successful. The present Department administration does not want state staff to have close contact with the teachers and has tried to discourage the practice. Agricultural Education people, however, feel it is very important that the state provide this service. Mr. Martinez and Mr. Chappell agreed.

Mr. Martinez asked if there is someone in the Agricultural Education Unit helping the State Department of Education to draft legislation and help with lobbying in connection with any recommendations this Committee might make. Mr. Davis and Mr. Wilson replied that there is no specific person from Agricultural Education doing this but the FFA is very visible to the Legislature. Members of the Legislature do pay attention to these students, and the FFA is active in trying to protect and take care of its interests. These young people have already expressed their concern about the loss of two regional supervisors. Ken Harris works for the vocational agriculture teachers who are guardians of the FFA. They are counting on him to make their wishes known to the Legislature and to this Committee and to make certain that Senate Bill 187 is implemented as it was intended. He has attended all meetings of the Committee and is actively carrying out his responsibilities.

Jan Eberly mentioned the transition period when Maurice Fleming resigned as regional supervisor in the Southern Region. There were many months between his resignation and the appointment of Karl Bakken. In the interim, Paul Stark was trying to keep his Southwestern Region going and trying to help with Southern Region responsibilities. The result was that he was overworked and both regions suffered a loss of service. She knows from this experience that a five regional supervisor system will not work. She stated that FFA membership has increased for the last three years. Under a reorganization to five regions, there will probably be a decrease, not only in the Central Region as mentioned by Mr. Wilson, but in the other regions as well. She feels that FFA will really suffer if the five regional supervisor system is not changed immediately. She said if the Committee recommends one regional supervisor per fifty schools (as it has tentatively discussed), FFA will have to go through another restructuring later.

Jan Eberly and Jerry Davis told the group that during the last National FFA Conference, California had the winning Meats Team, Dairy Team, and High Individual in the Ornamental Horticulture Contest. Since there are nine national contests, it is apparent that California, so far, holds a good record. That probably will not be the case if FFA must undergo so much reorganizing.

Laura Tower said she thinks this is really part of "Implementation" and should be taken up later. Joe Martinez said that the Committee is going to have to face this problem sooner or later. Mrs. Tower said this was not the end of the topic but should be discussed later. She asked Pat Langlin for her report on ROP/C Funding Samplings.

Mrs. Langlin said she had nothing to report. The process has not been completed because of lack of staff, and she can't tell the Committee when it will be. She has heard that vacancies probably will not be filled for two years.

Report on Meeting with Assistant to State Board of Education

Laura Tower and Tracy Schortman met with Ellis Bowman and were given a spot on the agenda to present the Committee Report. This is to occur at 9:00 a.m., Friday, January 14, 1983. He also gave them some instructions on how to present the report. The written material must be submitted to Mr. Bowman before December 23. He must make the information public when he sends copies of the agenda and other materials to interested persons and agencies on December 31. He also suggested that the report be presented as "standards", not mandates.

Mr. Wilson asked if they had received any feeling about what strategy should be involved. Was the report to be presented to the Board by a Committee member or by someone from the Department? Mrs. Tower and Ms. Schortman indicated that a member of the Committee is to make the presentation.

There was discussion about whether it should be made available to the current administration or to the Superintendent-elect. It was pointed out that the Committee is to present the report to the State Board of Education, and the Board representative has given the Committee a date of January 14, 1983. The new Superintendent will take office on January 3rd.

Mrs. Tower and Ms. Schortman indicated they told Mr. Bowman they wished the presentation to be made to the full Board, not just to a committee. Mr. Bowman assured them that would be the case, but the Board probably will refer the subject to a committee for study.

There was discussion about the report getting to the current administration and an adverse recommendation or comment being attached before the Board has a chance to review it. Mrs. Tower and Mrs. Langlin feel there will be no interference. The transition is working and, so far, there has been no problem getting information to the Board without current administration comments.

Press, Public Release of the Report

Mark Linder led this discussion. The pros and cons of a press conference were discussed. Mrs. Tower pointed out that the public will become aware of the report when Mr. Bowman mails the State Board Agenda and back-up materials out on December 31. There was discussion on how soon the Board might act on the report. There is no way to make an accurate appraisal of this. Currently five Board members have not been confirmed, and there will be a new Superintendent on duty.

First Draft Copy of Report Outline

Mrs. Tower distributed copies of this outline, and discussion followed. Mr.

Emery objected to including a "Report of the State Supervisor". Tracy Schortman explained why it had been listed. Don Wilson thought it should be omitted but said he would do whatever the Committee desired. Upon a vote, the Committee decided to delete this topic.

Joe Martinez suggested a Bibliography. Mrs. Tower and Ms. Schortman said they had discussed this and wondered if it could be a part of a general "thank-you" in the Chairman's report. Upon a vote, the Committee agreed to the latter.

Patrick Emery distributed copies of the "Overview of Committee Recommendations", which he had prepared.

While this was being done, Mrs. Langlin mentioned the battle with the Modesto School District which charged fees for student activities. She said their funds had been held up until the district stopped collecting fees. Mr. Wilson mentioned John Thurman's bill which passed this year and indicated that several other districts were intending to try this before the bill became law.

There was a brief recess, and the meeting reconvened at 10:36 a.m.

Mrs. Tower asked for comments on Mr. Emery's overview. Committee members were unanimous in their praise of the paper and expressed their gratitude to Mr. Emery. Minor changes were suggested. In the first paragraph, line ten, after the words "demand for food and fiber" the words "*and other agricultural products*" were added upon a vote of the Committee. It was also requested that the paper be edited to reflect gender equity.

"Recommendations of the Committee" were discussed. By Committee vote, the following action was taken:

No change in "Establishment and Appointment of an Ongoing State Advisory Committee"

No change in "Definition of Vocational Education in Agriculture"

No change in "Standards No. 1, 2, 3."

Revision of "Standard No. 4, Minimum Criteria 2" so that it will read, "Follow-up information will be systematically used in the *local education agency* review and planning functions of the instructional programs in agriculture.

No change in "Standards No. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10."

Revision of "Standard No. 11" by deleting Minimum Compliance 7 and adding those words to the first paragraph so that it will read, "Each school conducting a vocational agriculture program shall provide adequate facilities, equipment, and supplies for effective operation of the program. *These requirements apply only if the component of instruction is in effect.*"

No change in "Standards No. 12, 13, 14, 15."

No change in "Definition of General Education in Agriculture".

No change in "Operational Guidelines for General Education in Agriculture".

Revision of "A Proposed Implementation Plan for Agricultural Education in California".

Considerable discussion was held again on the matter of whether the Agricultural Education Staff should be composed of seven or five regional supervisors. Jack Chappell asked that the wording of Part I (2) of this proposed plan be revised to read, "Not less than seven regional supervisors." Jan Eberly agreed and said this number should not be subject to reduction every time there is a change in Department administration. Pat Langlin said this will add to the cost of the program. Don Wilson objected. He pointed out that the seven regional supervisors are already on the staff. Two could be returned to the Agricultural Education Unit at no additional cost to the Department. Jack Chappell agreed and insisted that seven be retained. Patrick Emery said this subject has been discussed at every meeting of the Committee since April 23, but the group has never voted on it. He brought up the letter he received from Steve Olson, which expresses the teachers' concerns. Several suggestions were made to reword this segment of the proposed implementation plan.

ACTION: It was moved by Patrick Emery, seconded by David Austin that the wording in Part I (2) be deleted and the following words be inserted: "*Not less than seven full-time regional supervisors to be assigned to geographical areas of responsibility which coincide with California FFA Regions.*"

The motion passed.

Adequate clerical assistance was discussed. By vote, the committee decided this could be handled by revising the last line of the second paragraph of Part I. The words "consisting of: will be deleted and the word "including:" will be substituted.

Revision of "Phase-In of the Vocational Agriculture Program" by correcting the date in the third paragraph to *July 1, 1984* and adding a statement to be prepared by Don Wilson on the "grandfathering" of current vocational agriculture teachers.*

Revision of "Curriculum"

Considerable discussion on this topic resulted in the

* See page 7a