

BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

FOOD SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

June 6, 2018

3:00 pm

Meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm

Welcome/Introductions:

Members present:

LeAnn Riley – Professor, Bakersfield College

Dr. Jay Menon – Director of Research and Development, Wonderful Pistachios and Almonds

Vincent Sorena – General Manager, D & J Farm Management

Jeff Siemens – Farm & Ranch Manager, Rio Bravo Ranch and Olives

Rebecca Farley - Wonderful Education Consultant, The Wonderful Company

Ed Fifield – Owner/Consultant, 5 Fields Services

Nick Lawson – Food Safety Consultant, 5 Fields Services

Overview of Program Development:

LeAnn Riley discussed the creation, development, and goals of the Food Science and Technology degree program at Bakersfield College. All members present had a discussion on the importance of Bakersfield and Kern County having a program like this locally.

Pathway Sequence and Courses:

LeAnn Riley introduced the plan for Bakersfield College's Food Science and Technology program, discussing and reviewing the proposed sequence of courses, individual course objectives, and skills learned in each course. Each member present was given a course outline to review and offer feedback.

Ed Fifield and Dr. Jay Menon requested an introductory/orientation course to cover career planning in the food industry, employability soft skills, basic laboratory skills such as equipment, measurement, basic math, and science skills. All members agreed and offered suggestions on a title. The committee's final approval on a title was "Orientation to the Food Science and Technology Industry".

Dr. Jay Menon suggested a research and development component to the course. He stated that students should understand how food products are developed and/or engineered early in their degree. Dr. Jay also recommended adding topics such as food fraud, organic, and GMO foods. All members agreed.

Ed Fifield and Nick Lawson suggested having at least one field trip for the orientation course to get students interested in the food industry and more field trips to local industry throughout the program so students can see first-hand how the local food systems work. All members agreed.

Vincent Sorena requested that students have as much hands-on experience as possible throughout the program and that the food cycle and supply chain be added. Vincent also made suggestions on order of topics and courses so the program flows in progression from pre-to post-harvest giving the students

a sense of the overall picture of food production and management. All members agreed.

Jeff Siemens recommended buying industry quality equipment and supplies if possible to resemble industry standards. He also added that the skills and concepts outlined in the proposed courses could cross over to many different areas of agriculture giving students better opportunities for employment. All members agreed.

Dr. Jay Menon and the members of the committee expressed a need to have a designated greenhouse for the Food Science and Technology program as most food industries are using them for production. It was discussed how food safety and quality assurance needs to be taught in the greenhouse setting as it is a very important part of the growing food industry. All members agreed.

Jeff Siemens suggested equipment for olive oil production and pressing. He also suggested having olive trees on campus so students can harvest and mill on the same day to ensure a higher quality product and be able to demonstrate quality assurance while harvesting, transporting, handling, and preparing a product to be processed. All members agreed.

LeAnn Riley asked the committee members if graduates from Bakersfield College applied for a job at their respective companies with an Associate's of Science degree or a Certificate of Achievement in Food Science and technology, would they be considered for an entry level position? The committee's response was full-heartedly - students who earned this degree or certificate would start at a much higher level at all their companies and be considered above other applicants.

Discussion and Approval:

LeAnn Riley asked the committee members present for approval of the proposed program, courses, and sequence. All members present approved the proposed program, courses, and sequence.

Dr. Jay Menon stood up and said "This is so very exciting. This is an excellent program. Kern County has needed this for such a long time. I wish I could take the courses in this program myself".

Meeting adjourned at 5:45pm.