Natural Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

April 23, 2019

4 pm - Room AS 103

Present:  Kurt Leuschner, Phil Parker, Sarah Robles, Lori Gavitt, Cameron Barrows, Katie Barrows, Judi Greene, Charles Greely, Caroline Conway, Maureen Perry

I.               Old Business

1.       Confirm Committee members and titles – roll sheet passed around.

2. Vote to approve minutes of last meeting: PP, KB, approved

3.       Sustainability Council – Kurt is the chairman. We meet monthly to discuss how to

make the campus more sustainable. The Ecologic Club is also being revived for the

Fall. We are looking for student involvement and ideas for projects.

*4*.      Classes are going well. Enrollment is down in a few classes but nothing has been cancelled recently. We are hoping to add an Advanced GIS class (online) as well as a 16 unit certificate in GIS. Motion to approve this idea carried (JG, CB).

We also discussed the idea of using ipads in the GIS class that students could check out and use in the field or at home to complete projects. A class set of 24 ipads or tablets would be ideal. Kurt will explore this idea for the future.

5. the Salton Sea Education and Research Center still exists in name but nothing has been done to move it forward (at Mecca Thermal campus).

*6*. Travel bans are still in effect for 9 states now with Oklahoma recently added to the list.

II.             New Business

1. Motion carried to make our 12 unit Desert Naturalist certificate “transcriptable” for students (KB, CB). We are getting more funding based on certificate completion from the State.
2. Online classes being taught by E. Morgan and P. Parker. Kathleen Brundige is also online certified and teaching the new (NR 059) online course Careers in Natural Resources and Agriculture. California is creating an all-online Community College degree and COD is part of that.….”the online University”. Instructors must be online certified and complete a training course.
3. Work Experience interns – we have 2 work experience interns this semester, one at the Indian Canyons and one at Whitewater Preserve. We are always looking for more opportunities.
4. Career Fairs – a record number of career fairs are being offered all year for local high school students mostly. Kurt has been attending some of them – both here on campus and also off-campus. We talked about the need to expose more students to the opportunities with GIS.
5. COD Facilities – Kurt gave an update on the Mecca-Thermal, Palm Springs, Indio, and Desert Hot Springs satellite campus sites. All four are growing, some slowly, Indio and now Palm Springs (the old Mall) the fastest. Things have slowed at Mecca Thermal for now.
6. Perkins Funding for 2019-20. For new equipment to enhance our classroom/lab we are requesting four new microscopes: 2 stereo and 2 compound. Estimated cost $3,301. Motion was carried to approve up to $3,900 for this expenditure (CB, PP).
7. Strong Workforce Funding – Kurt reviewed this additional source of funding for CTE programs that has helped fund some of our training/travel/conferences.
8. Set Next Meeting date – we will schedule the next meeting in the Spring (April most likely) of 2020. We can communicate via email in the meantime as things come up.

8.    Adjourn – the meeting was adjourned at 5:10pm