Agriculture Department Meeting
Minutes – November 21, 2013

1. General Items

Brian announced that Annette is now a full-time employee and everyone applauded.

1a – Thank you to everyone who helped out with the High School Tours and the Alumni Day. They were all a huge success. Brian received a phone call from the Orange County Farm Bureau thanking him for the tours and letting him know that several of the students that were on the tour are now planning on attending Mt. SAC after they graduate.

1b – Discussion occurred on whether we should change the date of Farm Day, 2014 since Cal Poly, Pomona was holding their 75th anniversary on the same day. Everyone agreed that the date should remain as May 3, 2014 and that we will work on advertising the event earlier. Maya will work with Sue Hothi to ensure aggressive advertising on Farm Day.

1c – We have an agriculture student who is willing to work on an App that could assist the Agriculture Department. If anyone can think of an App that would help them please let Brian know. Jennifer thought that a plant ID App could be very useful and talk with the student about it.

1d – The Faculty Association voted opposite of our department’s suggestion and the dental plan will stay as is and not include Orthodontics.

Farm Updates – Matthew Pawlak

Matthew updated us on the live-ons. Both Brandin and Ruben will be moving off campus and their trailers are available for purchase if we know of anyone looking to move on. We have plenty of spaces available.

MSDS Federal Laws have changed and it is mandated that anyone who deals with chemicals that have MSDS must go through a training on the new Global system. Matthew has gone to the training and is approved to train others. He will check with Karen Saldana to see if he can do a training for the department. It was suggested that we hold this meeting on December 17th at 9:30 before our SLO Fun Day.

2. Important Dates

2a-k – All dates are the same except we now have a date for the Agriculture Field Day. The date will be April 5, 2014.
3. Evaluations

3a – Brian thanked everyone for doing such a good job getting all the adjunct reviews done and turned into him on time.

4. Division Items

4a – Jennifer made a motion to approve all the courses that have arranged hours, Darlene second it, and everyone approved.

4b – We were very lucky that our faculty replacement was approved and we need to start working on the job description. Brian said that they would like to fly the position by January 1, 2014. Gary will make changes to the job description and email it out to everyone. Any suggestions need to get back to Brian as soon as possible.

We need to keep pursuing stipends for our 10-month faculty – please keep track of all extra hours that these faculty members put in. It is the best way for us to show how important stipends are for our department.

4c – Our department has been very successful on developing a list of needed equipment. Our equipment requests ranked: Gator (2nd), Injectors (10th), Stock Trailer (13th), Utility Trailer (18th), and mannequin parts (29th). It looks like only the Gator will be funded this time but we will be ready if any other monies are available.

4d – All faculty and staff need to be thinking about courses we could offer to help with enrollment issues in all of our programs or changes that we can make to help more students get through our programs and become completers.

4e – Just a reminder to send all general correspondence to NSDIV@mtsac.edu.

4f – A list of classes was reviewed that need to have lab parity resubmitted.

5. Curriculum Approvals:
The department approved changes to AGAG 59 and AGAG 51.

6. Next Meeting

Our next department meeting will be December 12th which will also be our Annual Annual Potluck Christmas Party.

7. Old Business

None

8. New Business
HVAC work will begin on December 16th. All faculty and staff need to make sure to secure any personal items and to make sure any breakables are packed away safely.

AVMA has granted the RVT Program full accreditation for another year. Their next site visit will be 2017. We have done a good job and cleared all Critical Recommendations from our list and only have to report on three Major Recommendations. Good job to everyone!