



Viticulture and Wine Technology

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2023 | 1687 & Zoom | 2:00 PM

LPC Mission Statement

Las Positas College is an inclusive, learning-centered, equity-focused environment that offers educational opportunities and support for completion of students' transfer, degree, and career-technical goals while promoting lifelong learning.

LPC Planning Priorities

- ❖ Establish a knowledge base and an appreciation for equity; create a sense of urgency about moving toward equity; institutionalize equity in decision-making, assessment, and accountability; and build capacity to resolve inequities.
- ❖ Increase student success and completion through change in college practices and processes: coordinating needed academic support, removing barriers, and supporting focused professional development across the campus.

Committee Name Quorum:

Present:
Beth McCormick
David Everett
Dave Hendrickson
David Kent
Jean O'Neil- Opipari
Karl Wentz
Meredith Sarboraria
Tom Orf

Agenda Item

1. Call to Order, 2:10

2. Welcome and Introductions

3. Review and Approval of Agenda

Motion by David, David K seconds, motion carries unanimously

4. Review and Approval of Minutes of February 7, 2023

Motion by David, Dave K seconds, Beth abstains, motion carries

5. Industry Updates

• Hiring needs

- David K hired new cellar manager new interns from Kent, England, looking for a part-time marketing assistant, prefer local, maybe hybrid, heavy and social media, Almost Famous Wine venue events 3X a week
- Meredith no hiring needs, social media is done internally
- John does social media for Occasio
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• Emerging trends

- Dave H – people making Albarino
- Meredith - Fiano, David E – awareness of other varietals than Chardonnay and Cabernet
- Karl – aromatic whites, what grows well here, cabernet franc, the warmer CA gets, the cooler the coastal area get, How will this affect the industry?
- Moist trend may continue for another couple of years
- More mildew this year
- LPC Albarino show a bit of minerality

• New Technology

- Dave H. Occasio making sparkling wine
- Smoke issues, temporary, will reform in grapes
- Birds, increasing need to net, Wentz using bird lasers
- David E.
- Bird laser has not been too successful. Falconer more successful.
- Some laser controlled vineyard next to netted vineyard, audio used
- Lasers may be useful for squirrels
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6. Faculty Update

• Enrollments

- VWT – COVID hangover, campus-wide 2/3 of the way back from COVID, trend is positive
- One class full and others not full
- Trying to determine when classes should be offered in order to keep classes full, did not offer winery op class this semester
- Moving to new facility so not making wine this season
- **Curriculum**
 - **Learning Objectives**
 - Make sure LPC students are competitive
 - Most wineries in the valley are touch by the LPC program, how to quantify this?
 - Program like semester at sea, short period at winery?
 - Interning at winery incompatible with being a student
 - Incorporate internship (full time) in program?
 - We should explore the possibility.
 - **[Viticulture and Wine Technology Program](#)**
- **Drone**
 - **Viticulture component**
 - Working with Dan C. on a 2-unit class to cross-list with viticulture class or use as an elective
 - Soil temp, moisture, vineyard mapping
 - Introduces tech in viticulture, attractive to students
 - Is drone tech compatible with viticulture vs aircraft for hundreds of acres of land? Is the swath they capture too small?
 - Used for mapping terrain, moisture in soil and temperatures, canopy management, irrigation
 - Fly drone below 400 ft.
 - Drones capabilities have increased, including height and distance
- **Wine sales**
 - Did not sell during the summer
 - Sales flat
 - Sold during musical this summer, sales robust
 - Partnership with the theater
 - Permits and glasses to serve expensive, but recovered expense quickly
- **Vineyard, viticulture**
 - Donated fruit to interested students
 - Longevity harvested Albarino
 - Some fruit not harvested because of mold
 - Preparing for move so taking a break
- **Winemaking, enology**
 - On a break from winemaking for the most part because of move
- **Tasting class**
- **Hospitality**
 - Still going, want to grow this offering, most important to Livermore Valley
- **New facility progress**
 - Video link
 - No solar, skylights
 - Looks good
- **Questions on Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association scholarship**
(<https://www.lvwine.org/scholarship.php>)

- Karl is the community outreach for Winegrowers Association
- Can anyone apply from anywhere?
- Contact Brandi Addington to bring her into loop
- Does it benefit the local AVA directly?
- What majors are eligible?

7. Recommendations from the Board

- **VWT Business Plan**
 - Foundation started a 5-year business plan, build off of that
- **Cross-list GIS**
 - Macro using GIS to look at geography of wine
 - GIS offered in the spring at night, most students work full time
 - a. Usually 9-15 students
 - b. Hesitant to grow program because DVC has a hug GIS program
 - c. Look at curriculum, explore the possibilities
 - d. Can merge with drone program
 - e. Next geographer will have strong GIS background
 - Monarch using GIS, look at how to incorporate into VWT

8. Adjournment, 3:10

9. Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, March 7, 2:00 PM