



# Viticulture & Winery Technology Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

4/16/2024 | 3:00 PM | L3300, 3302 / Zoom

## Meeting Minutes

### 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

- ❖ Implement the integration of all ACCJC standards throughout campus structure and processes.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Coordinate resources and provide professional development for effective online instruction and remote delivery of student support services and college processes to advance equitable student outcomes.

### Viticulture & Winery Technology Advisory Board Members

Damian Bramlett\*  
Jessica Carroll  
Laura Cornett  
Collin Cranor  
Neal Ely  
David Everett\*  
Carole Frost  
David Hendrickson\*  
David Kent  
John Kinney\*  
Phil Long  
Lisa Maier  
Jean O'Neil-Opipari\*  
Thomas Orf\*  
Meredith Sarboraria  
Vicki Shipman  
Karl Wente\*  
Niki Wente\*

### Guests

Daniel Cearley\*

1. **Call to Order at 3:18 p.m.**
2. **Welcome and Introductions**
3. **Tour of New Viticulture Building 3600/3700**
4. **Review of Agenda, 4/16/2024**
5. **Review of Previous Minutes, 9/21/2023**
6. **Industry Updates**
  - **Hiring Needs**
    - Seasonal laboratory interns
    - Wine chemistry laboratory technicians
      - Entry-level acceptable; these are teachable positions
    - Tractor drivers
      - Mowing, fungicide, leafing over the row, harvester driving, mixers; multitask functioning vineyard workers.
    - Vineyard management interns
    - Tasting room staff
    - Forklift operations
  - **Emerging Trends**
    - Low Alcohol
    - No Alcohol
    - Lighter Red Wines
    - Aromatic White Wines
    - Regenerative Organic Farming
      - Every input into the vineyard is supposed to improve the soil, improve the atmosphere and environment, and then the environment should start to improve your vineyard. So, it's kind of like you help the environment, the environment helps you. Emphasis on carbon sequestration
    - Smart Farming
    - Cabernet, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir – Very popular still
  - **New Technology**
    - Autonomous Tractors
    - Drone Technology – Dan Cearley
      - Dan shared the Drone Technology website and that his program does monthly drone flyover with a multispectral camera. The data they collect he has compiled into a report to see how it might be used for David and Damian in managing their vineyards. | [Vineyard Data Dashboard](#).
      - Dan shared that he wants to create a GIS related, remote sensing class around doing agricultural work and in it train students on interpreting data sets.
      - Feedback: Most of Wente's vineyards are over 5 acres so it would be hard for them to budget for this project and find it useful to their vineyard operations. It was added that while this is a great project and there is potential value in it, it just needs to be more 'useful' for it to have any impact on a larger scale.

## 7. Faculty Update

- **Enrollments**
  - Enrollment is good but slow to bounce back post pandemic. Students in this program continue to show a preference for online lectures, that said, CTE program labs will continue to be in-person and the program is looking forward to in-person winery lab instruction in the new facility this Fall 2024 when it opens.
- **Wine Sales**
  - The instructional program bottles about 400 gallons; 200 cases annually.
  - We have 9 varietals in the vineyard; Albariño, Sauvignon Blanc x2, Viognier, Grenache, Syrah, Tempranillo, Tarragona National, Malbec, Graciano.
  - Wine sales take place on the first Thursday of every month in building 800, room 806.
  - Customer base is primarily the students and alumni faculty.
  - Looking forward to the new facility and expanding our sales to local businesses.
- **Bond Compliance Update**
  - We are, all up to date with a State and Federal winery compliance.
- **Vineyard, Viticulture**
  - The 4 ½ acre hillside was pruned in March thanks to the help of an independent contractor.
- **Winemaking, Enology**
  - We will be offering VWT 21 – Applied Enology this Fall 2024, and are looking forward to having the students in the new facility get to know the ins and out of winery logistics and help set up the winery.
- **Hospitality (Community Ed.)**
  - Typically, we teach a Community Education class in sales and service for tasting room employees; it's been very successful over the last 4 years teaching them the ins and outs, etiquette, decorum, and legal aspects of working in a tasting room. This class runs 4 Saturday mornings, rotating through local wineries and ends with the shadow day. It's intended to be an intro to our tasting room class that we offer. It's a full semester sales and service class.

## 8. Recommendations from Advisory Board

- **Recommendation Item: Hire Personnel to Run the New Facility**
- David Everett: Given the new facility, the college will need additional staffing; it's just me and Damian, who is part-time. The winery premises and its operations will require a lot of oversight. I recommend that the college hire a full-time winery manager that would oversee the facility, wine, management, wine, sales, compliance, etc. and support the instructional faculty and students. A couple of the other things that the position will be responsible for is enrollment management, writing SLOs, updating course outlines, and maybe creating new curriculum; a majority of the things that a faculty member typically does. The reason I am bringing this up is because there are plans in the future for my retirement. It's not official, but I'm moving in that direction.
- Thomas Orf: As the Dean of STEM, I am in support of this position creation.
  - Karl Wentz motioned to approve; John Kinney seconded; all advisory board members were in favor; motion passed unanimously.
- The Las Positas College Viticulture and Winery Technology Advisory Board recommends the hiring of a full-time facility manager to oversee the new facility.
- **Recommendation Item: Creating a GIS Remote Sensing Curriculum**
  - Karl Wentz motioned to approve; Damian Bramlett seconded; all advisory board members were in favor; motion passed unanimously.
- The Las Positas College Viticulture and Winery Technology Advisory Board recommends that Las Positas College pursue the current work being done in the Drone Technology program with regard to the Campus Hill Vineyard project and create curriculum pertaining to GIS remote sensing.

## 9. Adjournment at 4:06 p.m.

## 10. Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, October 8, 2024, 2:00 – 3:30 pm