



Viticulture & Winery Technology Advisory Board Minutes

10/8/2024 | 2:00 PM | L3600, Room 3601

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*
Paula Checchi*
Neal Ely*
David Everett*
David Hendrickson
David Kent*
John Kinney
Brandi Lombardi
Phil Long
Beth McCormick*
Jean O'Neil-Opipari*
Meredith Sarboraria*
Vicki Shipman
Karl Wente
Nicki Wente

1. Call to Order at 2:17 p.m.

2. Welcome and Introductions

3. Tour of Buildings 3700 & 3600

4. Review and Approval of Agenda, 10/8/24

- David Kent/Meredith; Approved

5. Review and Approval of Minutes, 4/16/24

- Meredith/Jessica; Approved

6. Industry Updates - Input from the Board Members

• Hiring Needs

- Only hiring people that have been educated in tasting rooms; need to have wine knowledge and sales knowledges
- VWT Community Education class designed to get people ready to enter the workforce as a tasting room ambassador. This course is very detailed and teaches students comprehensive skills for working in a tasting room.
 - David would like to see more students from this community education course move into credit courses.
- Tasting Room Manager course would also be beneficial to the Valley.

• Skills in Demand

• Emerging Trends/Technologies

- People are not buying wine as much anymore; “mom juice”
- No single-serving options available in the industry
- Low-to-no alcohol content is trending but not prevalent in the industry
- Napa Valley vs. Livermore Valley – we are more affordable and can provide face-to-face visiting aspect whereas some people can't afford to go visit Napa Valley.

• Internship Opportunities

- Jessica needs staff and will email Jean the job posting.
- David Kent – has opportunities; three more interns needed since previous three have moved on.
- David Everett suggests that Spring operations courses and Spring applied enology course be aligned with Fall/Harvest internships. College would appreciate more involvement from local wineries in terms of student internships – It would be great if local wineries could come to college during Spring classes and meet students to offer these opportunities, tell us what you are looking for.
 - Email opportunities to Jean/David, connect with Career Center, have an information night etc. Job fair specific to VWT.

7. Program Report - Provided by Faculty

- 18 course outlines of records were updated in Spring 2024
 - Updated all the textbooks and course content for 18 VWT courses
 - Title change: VWT 1 from Wines of World: New World to “Wines of the Americas and Beyond”
 - Title change: VWT 2 from Wines of World: Old World to “Wines of Europe”
 - Increased units for VWT 45 Food and Wine Paring from 2 units to 3 units to add more lecture hours
- Enrollments - Fall 2024 courses have very healthy enrollments and are optimistic about Spring 2025
- Campus Hill Winery at Las Positas College
 - Wine tasting and wine sales - 1st and 3rd Thursdays (following the Academic Calendar)
 - Wines in inventory
 - Wines in production; 2 red wines will be bottled in November
 - 2021 *Return of the Hawk* received Best in Show at West Coast College and University Wine Festival and Competition
- Future Hiring
 - Winery Operations Manager
 - David provided a draft of the job description for the Winery Operations Manager and asked for any input from advisory board members to be sent to David Everett by 10/15.
 - Full Time Faculty
 - David is retiring at the end of the semester; a new FT Faculty replacement has been submitted to the FHPC.
 - Part Time Faculty – always looking to recruit part timers in both Viticulture and Enology
- Ribbon Cutting for new facilities - Tuesday, November 19 at 4:00pm
 - Expecting a lot of attendance in support of the program

8. Recommendations from Advisory Board

- FT Faculty Position and FT Winery Operations Manager positions were recommended by Advisory Board.
- Neal Ely/Meredith S– approved

9. Other Business

- After 6 mo, David may come back and teach a course as a PT faculty member
- Reidel Wine Glass Tasting Set Loaner Program for students.
 - Students enrolled in sensory analysis classes can now check out a tasting set for the semester.
 - Riedel Wine Glass Company provided significant discount of glassware, and donated 75 carrying cases valued at \$250 each. Tasting sets also include a stemware brush, buffing cloth, and spit cup.

10. Next Regular Meeting: Spring 2025 TBD

11. Adjournment at 3:30 pm