

**Draft Minutes**

**Agricultural Education Leadership Council Meeting  
November 12, 2003  
Alfred, NY**

**Attending:**

Cornell University

Susan Henry, Dean of the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences  
Rosemary Caffarella, Chair, Department of Education  
William Camp, Professor of Agricultural Education  
Donna Moore, Agricultural Education Outreach Coordinator, Executive Secretary to the Council

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Glenn Applebee, Associate Director

SUNY Oswego

Susan Camp, Chair Vocational Teacher Preparation

SUNY Alfred

Jim Grillo, Vice President of Academic Affairs  
David Broad, Chair Department of Liberal Arts & Sciences  
Melvin Chambliss, Professor of Veterinary Science

SUNY Cobleskill

Anne Myers, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Douglas Goodale, Dean of Agriculture  
Terry Hughes, Agriculture Tech Prep Director

SUNY Morrisville

Ray Cross, President  
Jim Van Riper, Dean of Agriculture

SUNY Delhi

Leigh Wilcox, Dept Chair & Program Director for Veterinary Science Technology

NY Department of Agriculture & Markets

Ray Christensen, Special Assistant

NY Department of Education

Chike Nnabugwu, Agricultural Education Advisor

NY Association of Agriculture Educators

Jeff Perry, President

NY Association of FFA Board of Trustees

Pat Ploetz, Chairperson  
Dustin Bliss, NY FFA State President

NY FFA Leadership Training Foundation

William Stowell, Chairperson

NY Farm Bureau

NY State Senate Agriculture Committee

NY State Assembly Agriculture Committee

**Review of the Mission Statement and task force work that has been done in the last twelve months:**

Review of purpose of the group's initial assembly – S. Henry  
Utilizing existing institutions and resources in collaboration to address the needs  
and issues facing the agricultural education system of the state.  
Comments on the original task force assignments

Clarification on the Mission Statement

Moved to add SED to list of organizations willing and interested in hosting the meeting. Would read “and the State DE as well as any and all members of the Council”. Moved C. Nnabugwu, seconded, approved

Move to strike the number 15 from the first sentence of the mission statement, correct to read institutions and agencies. Moved S. Henry, seconded, approved.

Recommended that the group develop a draft set of by-laws for review at the next meeting. Ray Cross volunteered to draft the document as long as all others promise to read the draft when it is presented.

Moved add “additional institutions and agencies not currently members of the Council may be added by the majority vote of the members attending the meeting in which the motion is made. Moved R. Cross, seconded, approved.

Move to add Cornell Cooperative Extension to the list of Council participants. Moved R. Cross, seconded, approved.

Move to revise the title of the FFA representation to state “NY Association of FFA Governing Board Co-Chairs” (Trustee and FFA President). Moved M. Chambliss, seconded, approved.

We encourage all organizations to bring with them a student representative.

By-laws may need to state clarifications regarding voting rights. The Council recommends that there be one vote per institution.

We recognize that students should be included in the task force work.

Mission Statement revision proposed by S. Henry – to be reviewed by the Council members before the next meeting:

The Council, representing the commitment of the institutions with substantial interest in agricultural education, attends to strategic and policy concerns needing analysis, deliberation and decision making among and by high-level leaders of the member institutions. The Council members make a commitment on behalf of their institution or agency to manage their separate and collaborative programs and resources in a coordinated manner to achieve common objectives. These include deepening public understanding of the agricultural and food industry, increasing the effectiveness and accountability of agricultural education programs, and addressing industry workforce needs ranging from attracting young people to and preparing them for agricultural careers, to providing in-service training for these already working in the industry.

### **Presentation of the Middle School Agricultural Education Policy by Dustin Bliss and Pat Ploetz**

*Proposal: To mandate that 20 weeks of agricultural education be incorporated into the required 40 week middle school technology education program.*

*Purpose:*

- *To increase the total number of students enrolled in agricultural education statewide.*
- *To promote agriculture literacy.*
- *To increase the number of junior FFA members in New York State.*

*Benefits:*

- *Increase in students' grades in academic courses such as mathematics and science.*
- *Greater respect and understanding of the agricultural community and industry.*
- *Increase in number of people entering agriculturally related careers.*
- *FFA members involved in a Supervised Agriculture Experience earn on average about \$9,000 annually.*

Recommendations from group – add wording to emphasis on science and math and state agriculture as food and fiber system.

The Council recommends that the agricultural education teachers and students (FFA) direct efforts to School Boards Association, Rural Schools Association, and School Administrators Association.

An idea for ‘down the road’ would be to develop an institute for middle school technology that will assist teachers in providing agricultural education focused technology instruction.

It was moved that the Council endorse the intent of this concept that all school boards, administrators and policy makers include some form of agricultural education (food and fiber systems) in their middle school technology program. Moved R. Cross, seconded, approved.

Board of Regents is in the process of developing a new policy on middle school technology. Information on the current working documents may be found at [www.emsc.nysed.gov](http://www.emsc.nysed.gov).

Moved that the Council send a letter to the Board of Regents requesting that agricultural science education (food and fiber system) be an interracial part of the middle school curriculum ex: technology, science, math Moved R. Caffarella, seconded, passed.

The technology requirement could be met by a comparable agricultural science education course option.

#### **Presentation of the Ag Ed Leadership Council Action Plan – R. Cross**

See attached report.

Questions to the group: Is this the information we want to be track? What purpose does this serve?

There is a need to add the following information to the action plan:

Track the number of students enrolled in agriculture related courses at Cornell.

Track the number of students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate Ag Education Teacher Certification programs at Cornell and SUNY Oswego.

#### **Presentation of the Tracking Data update for College Freshman – D. Goodale**

See attached report.

Can we take it to a statistician for evaluation?

Can we connect this information to data from admissions applications?

2/3 of the students attending Cobleskill & Morrisville have no background in 4H or FFA – how are they finding out about these programs and choosing to attend?

#### **Presentation of update on the program assessment development effort – B. Camp**

***The next NY Agricultural Education Leadership Council meeting will be at the State Education Department in Albany on April 8, 2004.***