



MINUTES
BIO/BIOT ADVISORY BOARD
11/16/22 – Microsoft Teams

Date of Meeting: 11/16/22

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ex-Officio: Diane Vorbroker, Linda Gingerich, Wanda Kimsey (Career Services and Internship coordinator), Rebecca Krischer (new) Summer Sparks (admin assistant), Dean Natavia Middleton

Officio: Ben Skipper (new, student), Allison Williams, Barbara Biller(new), Travis Teuber, Steven Harper, William Shackton (new)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Marilyn Browne, Linae Boehme, Shannon Ulrich, Tony Grilli, Bob Ulrich, Megan Elizabeth, Chelsea Knapp

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 4:03pm by Diane Vorbroker.

PREVIOUS MINUTES APPROVED:

Motion to approve the 5/20/22 and 11/17/21 meeting minutes was made by Barbara Biller. The motion was seconded by Steven Harper and Rebecca Krischer. Minutes approved unanimously by those in attendance.

NEW BUSINESS:

INTRODUCTION OF OFFICIO MEMBERS: Bill Shackton (new) is a teacher from Countryside High School and has been a part of their program for several years. Tony Grilli (new) is from Focus Laboratories which is located in Palm Harbor, FL. This company is an FDA/cGMP compliant testing laboratory that provides microbiological testing. Focus Labs has hosted SPC interns in the past. Barbara Biller (new) is from IntelliTech located in St. Petersburg, FL. IntelliTech is a manufacturer of a precision dispensing pumps and injection devices. Her company has been thrilled to host two interns from the program where the students performed environmental monitoring of the company's clean rooms. Ben Skipper (new) is a current SPC student and is majoring in Cellular & Molecular Biology; he plans to graduate in a year. Travis Teuber is the assistant manager for the city of Clearwater's Wastewater Environmental Technologies division, and an SPC alumni. Steve Harper is the resource manager for Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resource department. Lastly Allison Williams is the Chief of Research at the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System and has been a part of this advisory board for some time.

KATHY SIEGLER: Kathy Siegler sadly passed away on July 8th of this year after a short bout with cancer. Kathy was the founder and driving force behind the Biotechnology A.S. program until Fall 2021. Her wit and intellect will be greatly missed by those at the college and the individuals she worked with in her research

career.

COLLEGE ENROLLMENT: Enrollment has been down college-wide and is still lower than it was pre-pandemic. However, we are expecting enrollment to increase as more classes are meeting face to face and are delivered on campus rather than through an online format. This has brought life back to the campus.

PROGRAM ENROLLMENT: The BS Biology enrollment and graduation is still down but is improving. Unduplicated headcount enrollment was down 13.2% in Fall of 2020 but has improved to only down 0.9% in Fall of 2022. As a result, the number of graduates from the program also experienced a decline but is expected to increase over the next few terms.

The BIOT-AS enrollment is down to 29 students as of 2022. This is an expected readjustment as a result of the Laboratory Specialist Advanced Technical Certificate (LAB-ATC) created in the Fall of 2020. LAB-ATC has 209 enrolled as of 2022.

One of Dr. Vorbroker goals for the BIOT-AS is to find ways to increase enrollment and the program's completion rate. Ben Skipper mentioned that, as a Biology student, he was unaware of the Biotech program until this term. He wasn't fully aware of what Biotech is, and at first thought it was more tech related rather than Biology. Dr. Vorbroker will be creating a video that can be shown in the Intro to Biotech course that will give an overview of what Biotech is and the different industries. This video could also be shared in different science courses to increase student awareness of the program.

BS BIOLOGY PROGRAM UPDATES: The Honors diploma for the Biology program at SPC is fully launched. In addition to course and GPA requirements, students are also required to engage in research, community service and outreach, and also participate in the honor society at the college. In addition to research, they must also present their research whether it be at an internal symposium or at a professional society.

Competitive research symposium: for students in several disciplines was held in September. The symposium was well received, and we are looking at hosting this event again next year either in September or October. If you are interested in being a judge or involved in any way, please do not hesitate to reach out to either Dr. Gingerich or Vorbroker.

BIOTECHNOLOGY PROGRAM UPDATES: There was a was a 100% pass rate of the Biotechnician Assistant Credentialing (BACE) exam on the first attempt. This was the first time for the program.

Additionally, Dr. Vorbroker has been asked to rewrite the program's Major Learning Outcomes (MLO) and will share them with the Committee. Mostly they are being re-worded to student-oriented language. Dr. Vorbroker will also be requesting committee feedback on the program's Skills Checklist that is also being updated based on the changes that were made to the curriculum in Fall 2022. This checklist was started by Kathy Siegler as a way to gauge how well a student developed general lab skills and will be used to determine successful complete of the MLOs.

Diane Vorbroker also brought up the idea of creating a shorter-term Certificate or developing biomanufacturing/GLP-related courses at the College. Ben Skipper expressed interest and stated that as a student he would be interested, especially if the certificate was embedded into the Bachelor's degree program. Barbara Biller also expressed interest in a Certificate from the employer's point of view.

INTERNSHIPS: Thank you to Focus Labs and IntelliTech for hosting SPC Biotechnology students as summer interns. Barbara Biller gave an overview of what the student experienced while interning at IntelliTech - completing an environmental monitoring study of their cleanrooms. The student had the opportunity to learn how to properly gown, ISO standards, how to operate equipment, capture data and analyze trends.

If anyone is able to and would like to host interns and research projects, please reach out to Dr. Gingerich or Vorbroker. We would really like to bring small groups of students on a facility tour as well!

INDUSTRY UPDATES: Travis Teuber stated that on the government side, they've seen a decrease of laboratory technicians, and many labs he works with are understaffed. There are many opportunities for graduates of the Biology program at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

INDUSTRY CHAIR: A non-SPC employee is needed as the Industry Chair for the advisory board committee. This individual would be the lead contact person.

CAMPUS VISITS: Bill Shackton expressed interest in setting up a time for his students in the Biotech program at Countryside High School to visit the labs. This will allow the students to see firsthand what the college's Biotechnology and BS Biology programs offer.

CLOSING BUSINESS:

REMINDERS: Please fill out the Ways to Engage tool. <https://www.spcollege.edu/friends-partners/work-with-spc/advisory-committees/labor-market-resources>

This will allow us to gather ideas for curriculum changes, placement of students in internships, and add to the committee.

NEXT MEETING: Tentative date is Wednesday, March 29th, 2023. A meeting invite will be sent out about a month before.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Meeting called at 5pm by Linda Gingerich