

Minutes of the Fall 2015 Meeting of the SPC Biology/Biotechnology Advisory Board

Date: Friday OCT 30th 2015 Location: Clearwater campus NM 207

Meeting was called to order at 3:15 PM – Advisory Board Chair, Dr. Guy Bradley will lead the meeting today.

Goal of today's meeting is to understand the specific duties of the Biology/Biotechnology Advisory Committee and to begin developing/implementing a plan to fulfill these duties.

SPC staff Advisory Board ex officio members:

Kathy Siegler- Natural Science professor and instructor in charge of AS Biotechnology program.

Shannon McQuaig – Natural Science professor

Michelle Osovitz – Baccalaureate Biology professor

Advisory Board members:

Guy Bradley- PI TRBI- Biomedical Research, Advisory Board Chair

Akiko Tanaka – President of TBRI

Bob Ulrich- PURE molecular

Alison Williams- Chief of Research VA-Bay Pines (Research Administration)

Andrea Smith - Veterinary Medical Unit Supervisor VA-Bay Pines

Michael Shablott – USF Molecular Endocrinology

Old Business

None noted

Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting

The chair provided an overview of the minutes and made a motion to approve them. This motion was seconded by Allison Williams and the remaining board members approved them.

New Business

AS Biotech SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) accreditation

Kathy Siegler provided an overview of the accreditation process. The AS Biotech program will not be listed in the SPC college catalog until the program has SACS accreditation. This has somewhat hindered recruiting students into the program.

AS Biotech Lab space and equipment

The lab space for the program (SS-136 at the Clearwater campus) will be renovated during winter break. It is anticipated that the program will start utilizing the space beginning in the Spring 2016 semester. All the equipment purchased for the program will also be moved into this lab space.

Review/Discuss Biotechnology Program's Curriculum

Prior to the meeting Kathy Siegler had provided the current syllabi documents for the new AS Biotech courses offered during the Fall 2015 semester. These were discussed at length. It was again suggested that tours of various biotech laboratories be included within the curriculum for the BSC2420 (Introduction to Biotechnology). Kathy Siegler explained that implementing the current curriculum was more difficult than anticipated, since some of the students lacked basic laboratory skills that they should have acquired in their prerequisite courses. It is anticipated that as the program develops additional opportunities will be available for students to enhance their laboratory skills so as to be better prepared for the AS Biotech coursework.

Baccalaureate Biology Full time faculty

A recurrent issue with the Baccalaureate Biology program is the number of full-time faculty. At present there are two full-time instructors and a department chair, who teaches a reduced number of ECH (equated credit hours) to compensate for the duties as chair. There will be no new hires or increased lab hires for the program for the 2016-2017 academic year. The program continues to grow and unfortunately individual programs are not assessed as to their needs. It has been difficult to recruit quality adjuncts, as well. The board would like to voice their opinion on the lack of full time faculty and will draft a letter to the administration. The board asked for the data to support this letter. Michelle Osovitz will discuss this with the department chair, Linda Gingerich who will provide the board with the appropriate data.

Meeting summary

The board would like to review the syllabi as the new courses begin so as to assess whether the students will have the skills necessary for employment. The board strongly urges that the program be advertised via webpages and social media. The board members will look to find new employer partners to provide internships, scholarships and input into the program. The board will also look into the student/full time faculty ratio in the Baccalaureate Biology program.

Announcements

Three AS Biotech students may have the opportunity to participate in a five day capstone course at Forsyth Technical College in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. This course will allow the students to participate in workshops held at various biotech business in the Winston-Salem area.

The SPC Natural Sciences Department at Clearwater will hold an open house during the spring semester. AS biotech students will participate.

Next meeting

Spring semester of 2016. Date to be determined by SACS accreditation. Focus on identifying larger biotech businesses that may be willing to fund AS Biotech scholarships

Meeting adjourned 4:17 PM