

Minutes of the Spring 2017

Meeting of the SPC Biology/Biotechnology Advisory Board

Date: Monday April 3rd 2017

Location: Clearwater campus NM 207

Meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM

Advisory Board Chair, Dr. Guy Bradley will lead the meeting today.

Goal of today's meeting is to assess the administration's support for both the AS Biotech and Baccalaureate Biology program. Interim Dean Natavia Middleton was present to help address the board's concerns.

SPC staff Advisory Board ex officio members present:

Linda Gingerich – Chair Baccalaureate Biology Program

Jill Harper-Judd – Chair Natural Sciences, Clearwater

Ray Mendard – Natural Science professor

Natavia Middleton – Interim Dean Natural Sciences

Michelle Osovitz - Baccalaureate Biology professor, call in

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

Shannon Ulrich – Natural Science professor

Advisory Board members present:

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

Steve Harper – Director, Natural and Historical Resources Mgmt., Pinellas County Dept. Parks and Recreation

Ann McNicol – Director Biotechnology Program, Countryside High School

Michael Shablott – Principle Scientist Morphogenesis

Bob Ulrich – PURE Molecular

Andrea Smith – Veterinary Medical Unit supervisor, Bay Pines VA Healthcare System

Allison Williams – ACOS Research Bay Pines VA Healthcare System

SPC staff Advisory Board ex officio members absent:

Linae Boehme, Craig Huegel, Joseph Benavides

Advisory Board members absent:

Paul Anderson, Theresa Badurek, Meghan Gentilini, Susan Gerhart, Soichi Haraguchi, Sunil Jambhekar, Fred Perez, Akiko Tanaka,

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 Michael Shablott and the minutes were approved.

Open Issues

1. Discussion with Dean Middleton regarding the AS and BS programs
 - a. Baccalaureate Biology –
 - i. November 2016 Viability report of the program:
 1. success rate of students was above average
 2. students that have filled out surveys and kept in contact with SPC are successful in finding employment
 3. new methods are needed to track the students after graduation since this is a deficiency according to the report. Having students build LinkedIn accounts as part of course work will be one new option to track students.
 - ii. Comprehensive Program Review
 1. Most comments were positive in nature.

2. Students felt that they gained valuable networking and extensive writing skills
3. The program is graduating an average of 40 students per year
- iii. Number of class sections and enrollment
 1. College has based semester sections on past enrollment numbers; based upon these data core courses need additional sections, while electives are often under enrolled
- b. AS Biotechnology Laboratory Technology –
 - i. Enrollment
 1. Currently 51 students list this program as their major (Pulse)
 2. Ten student are currently taking Biotech required courses
 3. For the program to remain viable goals 2018 5 students graduated, 2019 15 students graduated, after 2019 20 students per year graduating from the program
 - ii. Marketing strategies
 1. January meeting between the SPC marketing department, Clearwater campus advisors, career services, Dean Middleton and Kathy Siegler. Three strategies being followed based upon the meeting include:
 - a. Development of welcome letter (see c. iii. Below) this will be mailed to all incoming students that identify AS BIOT as their program.
 - b. Orientation event – invitations sent to incoming students to meet with faculty, advisory board members and tour facilities. This will help these students feel part of a community
 - c. Internal Natural Sciences marketing – post the program flyer in core courses such as CHM1025, MCB2010, BSC2010 to make students aware of the program and its goals.
 - iii. Reduced ECH
 1. One of the SPC faculty members wanted to discuss the practice of reducing ECH for instructors when classes are not filled (6 students). This is a recurrent problem with the AS in Biotechnology Laboratory Technology program, so the instructor in charge has to pick up additional classes to meet the required base. This leaves less time for the program’s marketing, promoting and administrative needs. It was suggested that the board bring up this point to college administration.
- c. Program needs – How can the advisory board help?
 - i. Better exposure and marketing – Advisory board members can blog about their work, help identify other entities in the community that are willing to provide support, internship and mentoring opportunities.
 - ii. Marketing events – advisory board members will be notified about marketing events, their presence will help bolster the programs’ credibility.
 - iii. Welcome letter – the advisory board will generate a welcome letter for incoming AS Biotech students
 - iv. Student recruitment – Board members and faculty will attend programs at Countryside HS to recruit students to the AS Biotechnology Laboratory Technology Program – tentative date April 28th at 8:00 AM

New Business

1. BS Biology advising tracks
 - a. Faculty and members of the curriculum department met in January to develop advising tracks for BS Biology students
 - i. Tracks were chosen rather than subplans to allow students flexibility in the choice of elective courses.
 - ii. Tracks are helpful to focus students towards graduation goals (employment or continuation to graduate or professional schools).
2. Internships
 - a. Bay Care – college is developing a path for SPC BS Biology students to transition to careers as medical laboratory technologists.

- i. Students will take three classes, one per semester: shadowing at area BayCare facilities, didactic course on theory behind diagnostic and prognostic tests, internship.
- ii. Following graduation and the successful completion of the three courses at SPC students will enroll in a HCC MLT program.
 1. It is anticipated that students will be employed at a BayCare facility while completing their coursework at HCC.
- b. Clearwater Marine Aquarium – looking for interns to work on specific research projects as well as sea turtle rescue.
- c. Humane Society of Pinellas County – looking for interns in conjunction with behavior modification work on rescue dogs.

Next meeting Fall semester of 2017.

Date to be determined.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM