

# Minutes of the Fall 2016

## Meeting of the SPC Biology/Biotechnology Advisory Board

Date: Wednesday September 14<sup>th</sup> 2016

Location: Clearwater campus NM 207

Meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM

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

Goal of today's meeting is to address some open issues from the last Biology/Biotechnology Advisory Committee.

### **SPC staff Advisory Board ex officio members present:**

Joseph Benavides – Career Services

Linda Gingerich – Chair Baccalaureate Biology Program

Ray Mendard – Natural Science professor

Michelle Osovitz - Baccalaureate Biology professor

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

### **Advisory Board members present:**

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

Susan Gerhart – National Marine Fisheries/Policy

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

Ann McNicol – Director Biotechnology Program, Countryside High School

Fred Perez – Life Sciences Advanced Technologies

Michael Shambloott – Principle Scientist Morphogenesis

Bob Ulrich – PURE Molecular

Allison Williams – ACOS Research Bay Pines VA Healthcare System

### **SPC staff Advisory Board ex officio members absent:**

Linae Boehme, John Chapin, Craig Huegel, Shannon Ulrich

### **Advisory Board members absent:**

Paul Anderson, Theresa Badurek, Meghan Gentilini, Soichi Haraguchi, Sunil Jambhekar, Andrea Smith, 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 Steve Harper and the minutes were approved.

### **Open Issues**

1. AS Biotech Program
  - a. Enrollment expectations – The enrollment is still low. However the program is just now being extensively marketed. The continuing issue is that the low enrollment in these classes requires a reduction in the instructor ECH. This is requiring instructors to take on additional classes to meet their semester base ECH. This will continue to be problematic. The college administration requested that this program be developed and should better support the program. It was also suggested that the program host its own LinkedIn account. Kathy Siegler will check with Diana Sabino of Marketing Strategies to see if this would be feasible. The Clearwater campus will hold a STEM festival in November and host some students from Countryside HS for a tour. It is hoped that the increased exposure will increase enrollment.
  - b. Appropriate Option for someone with a criminal background – April Bullock, a SPC advisor asked Kathy Siegler if the AS Biotech program would be suitable for students with a criminal background. She did not want to advise students to obtain the degree if this would prevent them

from being hired. After much discussion most of the advisory board members felt that it would depend upon the employer. Many biotech companies have government contracts (Department of Defense) where the contracting organization may have hiring restrictions beyond what is standard for the company. Some biotech companies would be open to help these students by applying for funds that are available to help rehabilitate felons. All advisory board members felt that it was extremely important for the felony to be disclosed at the time of the application for employment or internship. Most employers were uncertain if they would hire anyone convicted of a violent felony.

- c. Internship Opportunities – There is a need for internships. Kathy Siegler asked that anyone interested in mentoring interns please forward their information. There was extensive discussion about other businesses that might be willing to sponsor interns. It was suggested that we think outside the box and look at local microbreweries and food production companies. Joe Benavides will check with area Chambers of Commerce.

## 2. BS Biology Program

- a. Adequate Faculty – There is still a consensus among the full-time faculty that there are not enough full time faculty to adequately staff both the Baccalaureate Biology and the AS Biotechnology Laboratory Technology programs. To date there has been no further response from Dr. Law to the advisory board. There continues to be a lack of available qualified adjuncts and enrollment in the Baccalaureate Biology program is still increasing. Since the ratio of full-time faculty to adjunct faculty drive hiring practices the full-time faculty are not teaching above their base ECH. The advisory board felt that additional correspondence would be pointless. Hopefully the shift in full time to adjunct ratios will alert the administration to this problem.
- b. Dr. Gingerich reiterated the request for board members to submit to her a list of all possible internship experiences, as well as special topics course suggestions. This will allow the college to be more specific as to the course topic on the student's transcript. The list would give students the opportunity to plan out their course of study based upon their interests.

Next meeting Spring semester of 2017.

Date to be determined.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM

Addendum:

In response to the request for internship information Ted Switzer send an email on 9/13/16 to confirm that his research group can support internships for interested, and motivated individuals. Plus there are other potential opportunities within my agency.

Attached is also a file from TBRI detailing the internship opportunities available.