



MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD

11/18/20 - SKYPE

Date of Meeting: 11/18/20

Members Present:

Teresa Afify, Marilyn Browne, Sandra Davis, Shea Dunifon, Richard Gilbert, Amanda Gilleland, Raymond Gorman, Samuel Henderson, Irvin Kety, Laurel Lynch, Maura Scanlon, Steve Soltau, Sean Williams, Jacob Wortock

Members Excused:

Waunda Barcus, Ivy Drexler

Others present:

N/A

Call to order:

11/18/20 – 4:00 pm by Chair of Advisory Committee, Samuel Henderson

Previous Minutes Approved:

Motion to approve 11/8/19 minutes made and approved unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

HOW COVID 19 HAS AFFECTED THE COLLEGE (SPRING – FALL) – Amanda Gilleland spoke about how most classes this semester and in the spring will either be Online or LiveOnline. Additionally there have been several lab class that have been able to do field trips outdoors. In the spring they are hoping to be able to do more Blended classes on campus with half the class coming one day and the other half coming the other day. This plan is contingent on the Covid numbers not causing the college to shut down again. Right now the college is trying to “think outside the box” to keep students safe while also offering them the classes they need and want. They are specifically exploring more outdoor activities for the Environmental classes.

Program Updates:

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AA STUDENT INVOLVEMENT – Jacob Wortock spoke about mock interviews workshops they have held in his dept. Unfortunately they have found the attendance at these functions is usually pretty low. They are working on ways to try and increase the volume of students who will engage in these activities. Maura Scanlon added that when she ran the student club she found students would not reach out to her until right before they graduate and then they would only usually attend one meeting. She used to hold a panel session but the number of students who would attend was very low. Sandra Davis thinks students wait to get involved because when they begin the program they do not realize exactly what they want to do when they begin the program and it isn't until the end when they have figured out what they want to do. Samuel Henderson suggested the committee put together a panel to talk to students and answer questions and to share with them what they do and help students figure out what exactly they want to do as a career. Irvin Kety asked if SPC has thought about bringing back some of the graduates of the program? They are the ones that have gone through our program and have gone out into the industry and got a job doing what they love. Theresa & Jacob have been trying to reach out to former students. They agreed it is a great idea to even get a quick testimonial that we can put in the classes for the students to see.

Subcommittee Reports:

N/A

Student Update:

N/A

Career Outreach Specialist:

PROGRAM ENROLLMENT AND GRADUATION INFORMATION Teresa Afify shared a slide highlighting enrollments. The chart is a breakdown for students in the Environmental Science sub-plans. Currently have 60 in Environmental Resources and 30 in the Water Management plan. Water certification rates have increased because it is included in the program and students get the certificate when they complete their degree. We had a virtual fair and internship parade and she thanked Jacob Wortock for the successful event. Teresa also spoke about how we have seen students showing some digital fatigue and as a result are not as involved in events and programs. Therefore we are hosting some programs to try and get those students back. Additionally, for those who may be interested in hiring SPC students we have the platform for them to review applications, post jobs etc. Teresa also spoke about SPC offering a Winter Session in the hopes of increasing enrollment. The Winter session runs from 12/14/20 – 1/8/21.

INTERNSHIPS - Jacob Wortock spoke about the SPC Internship program. This is a very robust program that requires students to get practical experience before they graduate. Most students take it right before they graduate. The intern program for Environmental Science is 2 credits. SPC requires a minimum of 120 hours where students are working on projects etc. This year has been challenging and some places have been able to offer remote internships but we are always looking for new opportunities for our students. Jacob stated he is looking forward to speaking with more members on the committee to brainstorm about other opportunities. Samuel Henderson spoke about all the opportunities that are available at the city of Gulfport. He is thinking there will be more opportunities as we go forward. Sandra Davis mentioned her internship at SouthCross and expressed her gratitude for everyone's help in getting her internship. Irvin Kety spoke about the city of Largo's long history with the internship program. They have utilized many interns and they all have been great and have learned a lot and have gone on to work in the industry. This year he interviewed four candidates and he wanted to hire all four for different reasons. His only concern was that their interview techniques was something they need to work on. But he knows that they will learn that too. Steve Soltau mentioned there is some opportunities doing things virtually. This is something that should really be explored. Steve also spoke about being willing to volunteer to work with students on their interviewing techniques doing mock interviews and bring them to some of the groups he is a member of. Amanda Gilleland agreed because she sees the need for the Environmental students to get that interview experience and learn networking skills. She asked if anyone is having a company event to invite students so they can get that experience. Sean Williams added that as long as we have all this virtual stuff going on he suggested critiquing some of their writings and giving them feedback. Sandra Davis spoke about a class she had taken that taught some of the networking/interviewing skills students need. She suggested those skills be incorporated in in other classes and also have some classes require the students attend a networking seminar. Jacob Wortock reminded the committee that all these seminars are open to all students but agreed if it is tied to a class or an assignment it would definitely help students get involved.

New Business:

NEXT MEETING DATE IN THE SPRING – Skype option (Early April was suggested but the Date and Time TBD). Amanda Gilleland will send out a survey to see when everyone is available. The next meeting is likely to be on Zoom as well.