



AGENDA/MEETING MINUTES
Palm Beach Community College
Business Partnership Council Meeting Minutes
Biotechnology
December 14, 2009
9:00 am
Bioscience Conference Room SC 201

Attendance: Dr. Tod Fairbanks Dr. Alexandra Gorgevska Dr. Libby Handel
Mr. Ray Johnson **Mr. Kenneth Kirby, Chair** Mr. John Walker

ITEM 1. Introductions

Dr. Libby Handel introduced and welcomed new committee members, Dr. Tod Fairbanks, Mr. John Walker and Mr. Ray Johnson, along with continuing committee member, Mr. Kenneth Kirby and Biotechnology professor, Dr. Alexandra Gorgevska.

ITEM 2. Purpose and Objective

Discussion: Dr. Handel discussed the purpose and objective of the Biotechnology Program. She noted that there are two main discussion points that she would like business partners to address:

1. Is the program meeting the workforce needs of the bioscience industry?
2. How does the Program rate in providing a skilled workforce for the bioscience industry?

Dr. Handel requested discussion on the status of the program, determining its focus and identifying critical aspects to be incorporated going forward. Ray Johnson suggested there be some type of program evaluation developed whereby the committee members could assess the various program areas and how students are prepared for the biotechnology workforce.

The Biotechnology Program is working to establish an Articulation Agreement with the School District of Palm Beach County for the area Biotechnology Academies. The Program has created an Introduction to Biotechnology AS course (BSC 1404C) that will enable Biotechnology Academy students to obtain college credit for such course and allow their entry and articulation into the Biotechnology AS Program.

ITEM 3. Program Overview and Update

Discussion: Dr. Handel explained that the college currently offers both AA and AS degrees and a new CCC College Credit Certificate. The Program will be offering three University of Florida Banner Center Continuing Education Modules. The modules will be held on three separate Fridays and each will be one, eight-hour session, on a specific topic.

The Program is currently working on another technology incubator research collaboration. Application and agreement details are being reviewed by the college administration and legal counsel.

The Biotechnology student internships continue to be extremely successful, with many of our local biotech companies giving positive feedback and requesting more PBCC Biotechnology students.

A career development component will be added to our current lecture course curriculum. The component will include resume preparation and writing, professional presentation, scientific inquiry, career discovery and interview presentation.

ITEM 4. Assessment Discussion and Recommendations

Discussion: Dr. Handel pointed out that increasing the number of students in the program is our largest challenge. Ray Johnson suggested that a lab skills assessment system may be a way to look at five or six areas that are critical to local industry needs. Dr. Handel indicated that the Banner Center Lab Assessment Exam could be a useful tool for evaluating student lab skill level. A lab skill list may also be something to look into for further evaluation. Ken Kirby said he had heard very positive feedback regarding our students from PI's at various local biotech firms.

Ray Johnson also suggested some other areas of the industry that may lend themselves to students who may be interested in the support side of the industry. Proposed areas include documentation, grant writing, regulatory affairs, intellectual property and database research. Further suggestions were also noted including business, marketing, QA/QC, along with manufacturing, design history and risk analysis.

ITEM 5. Articulation Agreements

The Articulation Agreement with the School District of Palm Beach County will require the implementation of a five-credit Introduction to Biotechnological Methods course (BSC1404C) to be offered as an alternative to the current Introduction to Biotechnology Lecture and Laboratory AA course (BSC2421, BSC 2421L). In order to adopt this change, the committee must vote on the course being incorporated into the Biotechnology Program.

Action: Ken Kirby moved to approve that Biotechnology Program add Introduction to Biotechnological Methods (BSC 1404C) to the program coursework.

The motion was seconded by Tod Fairbanks

Discussion: None

The motion carried: 5 yes 0 no

Data: Handout

ITEM 6. Future Topics

Discussion: Dr. Handel noted that faculty will be reviewing and restructuring some courses during the upcoming semester. The Program is also exploring the option to change the program to limited access.

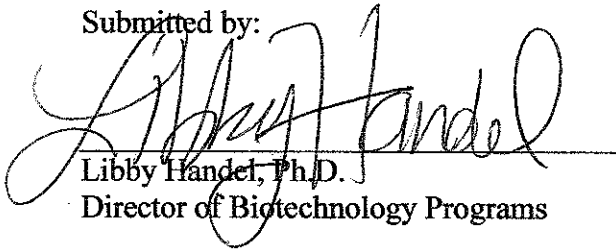
ITEM 7. Next meeting date

Our next scheduled meeting will be Friday, April 30, 2010, at 9:00am, SC 201.

ITEM 8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30am

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Libby Handel", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and stylized.

Libby Handel, Ph.D.
Director of Biotechnology Programs

Patricia Castro, Scribe

c. Minutes Distribution List