ITEM 1: Welcome /Introductions.
Role of the BPC:
- Assist with long-range planning, formation of program goals and unit plans,
- Review program curriculum,
- Serve as program advocates,
- Review/evaluate/recommend the available facilities and equipment,
- Participate in formal program reviews and end-of-program assessment required by accrediting agencies and Palm Beach State College.

Dr. Becky Mercer thanked BPC members for their support of the program. All members introduced themselves and new members were welcomed to the council. Dr. Mercer reviewed the role of the BPC is to focus on the specific curricular, equipment, and staffing needs of the PBSC Biotechnology Program.

ITEM 2. Program Updates- Equipment and Events
A. Dr. Alexandra Gorgevska presented on recent equipment updates for the program, including:
   - For Live Streaming Demos: iPad Air 2, Apple TV 4th Gen with Siri remote ($149), 48” Commercial Grade TV, Innovelis Apple TV Mount ($30), Belkin portable table stage ($99)
   - EVOS FLoid Cell Imaging Station ($11.2K, Invitrogen)
   - Countess II FL Automated Cell Counter ($4.4K, Invitrogen)
   - EVOS light cubes (DAPI, GFP, RFP, for Countess cell counter $1.96K each, Invitrogen)
   - 2 Celestron Digital Microscopes, II ($435.10 total, Carolina)
   - 2 National DC6-163 Digital Microscopes ($3,095.10 total, Carolina)
   - Gel Doc™ XR+ System ($9.7K, Bio-Rad)

B. Field Trips (Spring 2016)
   - Intro Lab: Scripps Florida, lab of Dr. Min Guo; hosted by Dr. Joanne Doherty, Senior Staff Scientist
   - Biotech 1 lab: Ocean ridge Biosciences
   - Biotech 2 Lab: Somahlution & Global Pharma Analytics (GPA)
   - Tissue Culture Lab: Akron Biotech
   - Instrumentation Lab: ThermoFisher Scientific

ITEM 3. Program Updates-- Student Successes
- Three recent Biotech grads presented at the Spring 2016 Life Sciences South Florida (LSSF) Undergraduate Research Symposium at Broward College 4/2/16: Anthony Vargas (now employed at Scripps, Chemistry Dept); Haya Ghanoumma (now employed at Scripps FL Cancer Biology Dept), and Juanita Sanchez (now employed at BioTools).
- Rebecca Stremel was awarded the College’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Leadership Award at the College for 2016. Rebecca is President of the Biotechnology Student Association.
- First year student Courtney Obligacion was awarded the Florida Golf Village Academic Scholarship for 2016.
- Alumnus Tevin Ali was selected for an internship in Washington, D.C at the STEMConnector.
- Alumnus Donald Mau was hired to work as a technician in a tissue culture facility at Harvard University.
• Alumnus Matt Cleary is now pursuing a Master’s degree at UF, while working full-time at Somahlution as an Assistant Scientist.
• Alumna Fabiana Torres was accepted into the College of Pharmacy at Nova and will start in Fall.2016. Fabiana has been working full-time since Fab 2015 as a Lab Tech at Akron Biotech.
• Alumna Shannon Pasley was promoted to Laboratory Coordinator at Akron Biotech.
• Alumna Kimberly Carroll is now working in Sales at BocaBiolistics, after being promoted from Laboratory Operations.

We are proud of our students and graduates and wish them the best success as they advance their careers!

ITEM 4: Program Updates-- 30-credit (1-year) Biotech Lab Specialist Certificate (CIP 0341010101)
Discussion: As discussed at our last meeting, the Biotech BPC approved the implementation of a 30-credit certificate for students to complete in half the time it takes for the Associate’s degree. Since our Fall meeting, this proposal was approved by the College-wide Biological Sciences Faculty Cluster and will next be presented to the College’s Curriculum Committee this Spring. If approved, the proposal would be sent to the Deans council and then to the District Board of Trustees (DBOT) for approval. We expect to offer the certificate to students starting in January 2017. The framework already exists in the Florida DOE website: http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/13175/urlt/0341010101-1617.rtf

ITEM 5: 6-week summer internship for high school students.
Discussion: The program has run (for the past 2 years) a summer research internship for high school students. This program will be expanded, and the criteria for acceptance have been posted. http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/programs/biotechnology/internship-opportunities/highschool.aspx

ITEM 6: Donating to the Biotechnology Program and to PBSC.
Discussion: Mrs. Ana Thomas from the College’s Foundation made a presentation on how BPC members can contribute financially to the program to build student success. She stressed to the Council that it doesn’t take a large sum to help a student: even a small donation of a few hundred dollars can get a student to graduation, help them transition from part-time to full-time student status, and advance into the biotech workforce. Mrs. Thomas showed the STEAM video https://vimeo.com/125255215

Meeting was adjourned, followed by lab tour and networking.

Next council meeting: Fall 2016
Submitted by: Becky Mercer, scribe.
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<tr>
<th>Ms.</th>
<th>Lyn Slygh</th>
<th>Biotech Academy</th>
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<td>Dr.</td>
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