

# Palm Beach State College

## Business Partnership Council Meeting Minutes Environmental Science Technology December 4, 2013 12:00 pm SC Building Conference Room, SC 201

### ITEM 1: Introductions

Professor Jessica Miles welcomed all committee members. Self introductions and a brief description of each member's organization were given.

### ITEM 2: Guest Speaker – Mr. Joe Ancona

Mr. Ancona, a student in the Palm Beach State College Electrical Power Technology Program, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the EPT Program highlighting: Smart Grid Technology, alternative power generation, and how GIS overlaps into the EPT Program. Mr. Ancona also discussed careers and how Smart Grid Technology is used to control FP&L wind farms located thousands of miles away from their Juno Beach facility, using OSI software that is studied by students in the program. Mr. Ancona went on to say there are a number of jobs in the power technology industry with local employers such as FP&L, NextEra Energy and Sikorsky.

#### Data Source:

### ITEM 3: Guest Speaker – Professor Elsa Krauss "[Look What We Can Do](#)"

Professor Krauss presented a PowerPoint overview of her course, Environmental Sampling. Professor Krauss indicated that her course included real life experiences, including water sampling and soil sampling from our campus ponds. Professor Krauss stated that, "our student samples were analyzed by Jupiter Environmental labs", and that students were given a tour of the lab facilities during a recent field trip. Professor Krauss went on to say how important it is for students to understand the use of equipment, the techniques for sampling, the analysis of samples that are taken, and the accuracy of reporting and documentation, as well as ethics.

#### Data Source:

### Item 4: Dr. Robert Van Der Velde, Associate Dean: State General Education Requirement Changes – Introduction to Environmental Science (EVR 1001)

Dr. Van Der Velde gave a brief overview of the newest legislative changes to the General Education Requirements established by the state legislature for the college:

- Most incoming students (beginning in spring 2014 term) will not be required to take prep Math and English. Intro Math and English courses will now include a lab requirement.

- Committee members were told by Dr. Van Der Velde about required General Education courses in various “buckets.” Related to the Environmental Science Technology program is the Natural Science “bucket” which will include a course called Introduction to Environmental Science (EVR 1001). This class is nearly identical to PBSC’s existing BSC 1050, Environmental Conservation course. As a result of this similarity, it is proposed that Prof. Miles work through our PBSC system to replace the BSC 1050 course with the new EVR 1001 course. This is also expected to increase enrollment in the Environmental Science technology program and raise the environmental literacy level of a greater number of PBSC students who will now be more likely to take this class because it is included in the required and transferrable bucket shared among many state institutions. Dr. Van Der Velde ask committee members to vote to make the EVR 1001 the replacement course for the Environmental Science Technology program instead of the former BSC 1050. Committee members voted unanimously for the EVR 1001 course.

**Data Source: State of Florida Department of Education – Course Directory**

**Action Item: Unanimous vote for EVR 1001 course selection**

**Item 5:** Establishment of Program Goals – Professor Jessica Miles  
 Professor Miles shared with committee members the status of the Sampling Pier Project for the college. Professor Miles indicated that a vendor had been selected and that the project was in the process of permitting and review. Professor Miles also indicated that a wildlife management plan had been suggested for the Palm Beach Gardens campus. Professor Miles also updated committee members of the upcoming Tropical Ecology course, PCB 2350c, to be offered this summer including a field trip to Costa Rica.

**Data Source:**

**Item 6:** Other/Miscellaneous/Questions  
 Committee members’ comments/suggestions included;

- The development of a GIS sampling plan project for students, including the use of ARC GIS web based system
- Job opportunities for students are opening at various agencies (some grant funded) including species counts and volunteer positions
- The need for students to be proficient in both narrative and report writing
- Education centers are key to public outreach
- AmeriCorps and volunteer positions are always available at many Florida State Parks

**Item 7:** Adjourn  
 The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm.

**Attendance:** Mr. Scott Tedford, Ms. Lorene Bachman, Ms. Lindsey Nestor, Mr. Scott Zednek  
 Dr. Robert Van Der Velde, Associate Dean, Ms. Ginny Powell, Prof. Elsa Krauss,  
 Mr. Joe Ancona, Guest Prof. Jessica Miles, Chair

Submitted by: Jessica Miles, Department Chair

Patricia Castro, Scribe