

Palm Beach State College

Business Partnership Council Meeting Minutes Environmental Science Technology

May 7, 2014

9:00 am

Bioscience Technology Complex - Conference Room, SC 201

ITEM 1: Introductions

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

ITEM 2: Reporting of Annual Program Goals – Dr. Jessica Miles

Goal 1

Dr. Miles reported course BSC 1050, Environmental Conservation, will now become course EVR 1001, Introduction to Environmental Science, as voted upon by the Environmental Science Business Partnership Council on December 4, 2013, and pertaining to the approved course list by the state legislature. As a result, this change will allow for the enrollment of more students, and it will become an elective course as part of the general education requirements, making its transferability in line with state requirements. The change will go into effect beginning with the fall 2015-1 semester. Dr. Miles also indicated that by adding EVR 1001 as a general education course, it will also aid in the recruitment of students into the Environmental Science program.

Goal 2

Dr. Miles shared the progress on the new floating sampling pier. The pier has arrived and the facilities department is in the pre-construction and assembly phase of the project. Dr. Miles showed the artist rendering of the ADA access walkway and pier to the committee members. The anticipated completion date will be fall 2015. Ms. Knoll asked what type of sampling will be done and offered to help students with various types of labs and data that could be used by students.

Data Source:

ITEM 3: We Want Your Problems – Committee Members

Dr. Miles invited Committee members to share environmental problems they encounter at their respective departments that could be studied by our environmental science students.

Ms. Ginny Powell – Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management
Ms. Powell indicated that the county continues to have an ongoing problem with feral cats within Palm Beach County natural areas. She stated that the problem continues to grow, and there are many facets to the problem. Problem summary sheet was provided to Dr. Miles for use with the students.

Ms. Susan Knoll – Loxahatchee River District

Ms. Knoll presented the problem of continued closings of Dubois Park swimming area. The park continues to have bacteria above the recommended levels for public swimming. The park has been closed to swimming five times since January 2014 for contaminated water. Students could work to address the source of the problem.

Mr. Ricardo Zambrano – Florida Fish and Wildlife

Mr. Zambrano indicated that there continues to be the ongoing problem with bears coming into local residential areas in Hendry county. This issue too is many faceted and a solution needs to be found, as bears are now becoming more dangerous and attacking residents. Coordination with local waste management services would also be necessary.

Data Source: Problem Summary Sheet

Item 4: General Discussion

Committee members discussed the importance of writing skills and the ability to convert scientific information and reports into language for the general public. Members also discussed the importance of professional emailing skills. Many times this type of communication is not thought to be a professional or business form of communicating and is not well written.

Grant writing skills continue to be a vitally important part of the scientific arena. Guest, Dr. Jay Matteson, Director of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Sustainability, indicated that the college offering grant writing workshop(s) would be a welcome addition. Dr. Matteson discussed the institute's and the college's desire to obtain grants and awards from a variety of sources including, but not limited to; the National Science Foundation, NSF, Wells Fargo Bank, Advanced Technological Education, ATE, and the Green Genome Award, in the areas of environmental science and environmental sustainability.

Item 5: Adjourn
The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 am.

Attendance: Ms. Ginny Powell, Mr. Ricardo Zambrano, Ms. Susan Knoll, Dr. Jay Matteson, guest Dr. Jessica Miles, Chair

Submitted by: Dr. Jessica Miles, Department Chair

Patricia Castro, Scribe