Biotechnology Advisory Committee Meeting Friday, October 25, 2024 9:30am – 11:00am Zoom

Industry Attendees:

Joy Adiletta – in-between roles
Arthur Castleton – starting new role in Indianapolis area
Jim Dekloe – Solano Community College
Daniel Hurwit – BMS and instructor
Joshua Lopes – BMS
Srikant Lyer – Life Science Washington
Ryan Takeya – Pfizer
Reitha Weeks – Edmonds Community College

Shoreline Community College Attendees:

Orlando de Lange – Acting Dean STEM-CTE
Diana Ensenat – Lab Support Technician Biotechnology & Biomanufacturing
Kelly Griffin (note taker)
Rachel Rawle – Faculty and Program Liaison
Vasudha Sundaravaradan – Faculty

Guest/Observer:

Matt Mitchell – Futures Research (Observing as a comprehensive program reviewer.)

Rachel opened the meeting, facilitated introductions, and had a preliminary approval of the April 2024 Minutes (quorum to be determined). Roshan stepped down as Chair and Rachel welcomed interest of others for Chair and Vice Chair of the committee. Arthur and Dan expressed interest. Details and a vote to occur at a future time.

Rachel asked Orlando to talk about his new role as Acting Dean for STEM-CTE. The new organizational structure has two deans. One for Acting STEM-Transfer (Dalila Paredes) and one for Acting STEM-CTE (Career Technical Education) with Orlando as the dean until summer 2025.

Rachel explained that the college has campus-wide annual program reviews. This year is the comprehensive review for Biotechnology. She introduced Matt Mitchell from Futures Research who explained his role as an observer. He plans to issue a short questionnaire to Rachel for distribution to committee members and collect by 11/22/24. The questionnaire should take approximately 15 minutes.

Diana announced the college's annual fundraising event "The Giving Table". It will be held Friday, 11/1 to help support students in need (food or housing insecurity, scholarship funding) through the Foundation Office. Diana will be hosting a table at the luncheon and welcomes additional attendees to join her.

Rachel said Diana's position is a grant position that concludes at the end of the budget year, June 2025. She and others are proposing to Administration that the position be institutionalized so that the college funds the position going forward. She encouraged the committee to support Diana's position in communications and interactions with administrators regarding funding the position to be permanent. There was lively discussion and positive feedback for Diana's ongoing lab technician support within the biotech and bio-manufacturing areas. Several people mentioned ideas for a letter to Administration to show support. Jim volunteered to draft a formal letter for the committee to review and put forward to Administration during the decision-making period.

Rachel continued discussion about initiatives from the April meeting (see slide deck). She listed opportunities for committee members to volunteer: Winter 2025 guest speaker opportunities on recombinant DNA technology, RNA techniques, downstream processing (Joy volunteered); mock interviews; company tours; career panelists (Joy volunteered); employer spotlights (see the Google Drive documents with the volunteer calendar and share it out with your employees).

Rachel projected slides showing program tracks and enrollments. Orlando mentioned that one program area was at capacity and the need for additional faculty. Vasudha also mentioned that the numbers don't capture all of the actual numbers of students served (such as students who only take one class).

Additional discussion included anticipated summer internships and WRF proposal (grant money to initially fund five student interns); additional hands-on labs; wave bioreactor equipment arriving in December; and iBest imbedded instructor support system (integrating basic education and skills training) during winter quarter 2025.

Rachel thanked everyone and the meeting concluded at 11:00am.