

# 19OCT2023 Biotech Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

Committee Chair: Roshan Liyanage

Minutes taken by: Orlando de Lange

Faculty Program Coordinator: Rachel Rawle,

Attendees (SCC): Rachel Rawle, Orlando de Lange, Vasudha Sundaravaradan, Diana Ensenat

Attendees (advisors): Roshan Liyanage, Arthur Castleton, Ryan Takeya, Ad Legesse, Reitha Weeks

## Agenda Items

(Blue = agenda item. Black = minutes)

1. **Introductions**
  - a. Made a full round of introductions.
  - b. Chair noted that we do not have the minutes from last meeting to review. Arthur suggested that we review both sets of minutes at our next committee meeting.
2. **Updates on SCC leadership & staff changes [Rachel]**
  - a. Rachel shared a flyer that has updated contact and role information with advisors.
3. **Programs overview & highlights [SCC faculty]**
  - a. Rachel shared and talked through a table with list of current SCC Biotech/Biomanufacturing programs shared with advisory committee members, with programs grouped into those that support adult learners and those that support high school students.
  - b. Question about HS biomanufacturing program from Roshan – will credits transfer to a future college.
    - i. Rachel shared that since these credits are coded as CTE credits they would not be accepted as credits towards a transfer program but Rachel is looking into possibilities to change the coding of the credits or to build articulation agreements with Washington colleges to have these credits accepted.
4. **Ways to strengthen our industry-educational partnership [Rachel]**
  - a. Will begin the discussion now, continue at next meeting
  - b. Establish a Biomanufacturing Training Consortium

- i. Group focused on strengthening pipelines that will supply a skilled workforce to your companies
  - ii. Who should be in this group to make it most effective?
    - a. Suggestions from Arthur: Mike Norman, Madison (current SCC lab tech).
    - b. Additional suggestion from Arthur - could we better align training at SCC with what companies are doing internally so that our students are actually partially trained for their new workplace and don't have to get a repeat training. That could save the new employer money.
      - i. Ryan added that it seems a promising idea. It is something that would have to be approved by QA personnel at the relevant employer, and they might object. Might also require SCC instructors to get certified by the employers. Also each company has different trainings and unfortunately there is not currently good industry alignment and no good pathway to achieving that alignment any time soon.
    - c. Suggestions from Ryan: Chris Holt, David Shenck – people working in the biomanufacturing space who are doing a lot of hiring. A
    - d. Reitha suggested that we should reach out to every single biomanufacturing company in the region and invite them into the consortium.
    - e. Ad raised that there is a big awareness gap out there – many companies simply don't know that SCC biotech/bioman programs – a video can be a powerful communication tool.
    - f. Had a side discussion that we do currently offer training within our BLS programs that are very relevant to biomanufacturing roles.
      - i. Arthur raised the idea of offering internships in process development, giving BLS students exposure to biomanufacturing careers.
5. What opportunities are there for ESL folks at your companies? [SCC faculty]
- c. What barriers do these folks face in getting into jobs, or keeping jobs at your company?
    - a. Ryan – There is a lot of reading comprehension involved in biomanufacturing. We try to write things at 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grade, but there

are specific terms that are used (e.g. “don”). So they don’t need to be college level English.

- b. Roshan – It's a very tough barrier because they have to get through HR screening, and they may get dropped at an early point because their language skills will be considered not good enough. They may need to have a personal contact so that there is somebody on the inside of the company who knows them and can vouch for them.
    - i. Probably getting people internships.
  - c. Ad – Report writing could be an issue. In his experience the accent was a challenge – not language skills per se. Somehow you do really just need to get your message across.
  - d. Arthur – What would give me confidence is if they can read a batch record and then explain it back to me in their own words.
  - e. Vasudha raised the issue that “fit in the group” is also likely to be
6. Emerging skillsets for incoming biotechnology technicians - any changes we should be aware of? Or, those that make someone a top candidate? - Did not get to this agenda item
  7. Announcement: Biotech & Biomanufacturing PT Faculty Pool (soon to be posted) [Rachel]
    - d. Currently looking for folks interested in teaching protein purification (AKTA) and intro to aseptic techniques. - Did not get to this agenda item

## Action items

- Action Orlando – Locate minutes from last committee meeting (Spring 2023) and ensure they get shared, along with these minutes, ahead of next committee meeting.
- Action Rachel – Schedule next meeting.