

Minutes

Advisory Board Meeting Biotechnology Program, Oklahoma City Community College

Friday, April 17, 2009
8:00 a.m.
Conference Room ARL
840 Research Pkwy
OKC

Board members present:

Robert Gonzales	Noble Foundation, Ardmore
Eric Howard	OUHSC
Darrin Akins	OUHSC; Co-Director Oklahoma INBRE
Mike Centola	Crescendo (formerly Riley-Genomics), OMRF

Fabiola Janiak-Spens OCCC, Director of Biotechnology Program

Board members absent:

Paul Cook	Professor of Biochemistry, OU
Brad Johnson	Manager, Purification Development, Cytovance
Tom Kupiec	CEO, Analytical Research Laboratories (ARL), DNA Solutions
Matt Gonzalez	OKState Health Dept, former OCCC program graduate
Craig Shimasaki	President and CEO, InterGenetics

1. *Introduction:*

Dr. Janiak-Spens welcomed Dr. Darrin Akins as the new board member. He is replacing Dr. Frank Waxman on the advisory board.

2. *Director's Report:*

Dr. Janiak-Spens gave a power point presentation to the board highlighting the biotechnology degree components, number of program graduates and their outcomes, as well as showing pictures of the biotechnology teaching lab and especially the new equipment available at OCCC.

Program outcome: Four students obtained either a certificate of mastery or an AAS degree in biotechnology last year, two of the four are continuing their education pursuing a BSc degree in a bioscience field, another student is in the PhD program for physical therapy, and the fourth student has been employed at a local biotechnology company since her graduation.

Enrollment for fall biotechnology classes seems increased with 5 students already enrolled in BIOT 2823 – Biotechnology I lab and possibly 3 more joining after having completed BIOT 1022 – Media and Solution preparation.

This is the second year of the current OCAST Internship Partnership grant. There are five students that will enter the 8-week internship in May. All students will receive a stipend through the OCAST grant.

OCCC has joined the Oklahoma Bioscience Association (OKBio) as a partner organization. Dr. Janiak-Spens recently presented about the OCCC Biotechnology Program at OKBio's "Where is the Talent?" seminar.

The curriculum changed that has been approved by the college last year has increased the time available for instruction in BIOT 2933, Biotechnology II lab. This change allows for more lecture time about protein purification techniques, the main topic of this biotechnology course.

Dr. Janiak-Spens thanked the members that are partners in this grant for their support and willingness to take and support interns through this grant.

3. *Industry Trends, Recommendations:*

The board members present suggested to connect with the new biotechnology companies in town (e.g. Altheas Therapeutics, Selexys). Dr. Janiak-Spens stated that an introductory visit to Selexys will be planned to introduce herself and the OCCC biotech program.

Mike Centola recommended training students on ELISAs since this technique is used in several laboratories/companies. Currently OCCC Biotech students are only performing Western Blots. Dr. Janiak-Spens will work on incorporating ELISAs into one or more of the courses.

4. *AAS vs BS in the job market:*

Dr. Janiak-Spens reported that she noted that the minimum degree requirement listed in job openings for laboratory technicians at both OMRF and OUHSC is a BS in science. This requirement would place AAS degree graduates out of the applicant pool. The board discussed reasons and options, also stating that the OCCC biotech internship provides for most of the hiring of our graduates.

5. *Marketing:*

Mike Centola suggested, in order to increase awareness of the biotech program and thus the availability of skilled lab technicians, to have a presence/presentation at the annual OMRF retreat. The contact is Tim Mather. Dr. Janiak-Spens requested board members to continue promoting the program to new faculty as well as existing faculty/companies that are looking for technicians.

6. *Other:*

Eric Howard expressed a strong interest to 'contract' with OCCC biotech to train incoming OUHSC graduate students in basic laboratory techniques. A course content

similar to, or a combination of, the INBRE bootcamp (BIOT 2002) or BIOT 1022 – Media and Solution Preparation, 1-2 weeks in duration, could serve to prepare these students for their OUHSC lab rotation, minimizing the training needed at the HSC labs. Dr. Janiak-Spens is very interested in pursuing this endeavor.

7. *Adjourned:*
9:00 am

Respectfully submitted by:
Fabiola Janiak-Spens
4-17-2009