# Program Advisory Committee Minutes

## Biotechnology

**Chair:** Scott Sample  
**Recorder:** Kathy Johanson  
**Meeting Date:** April 16, 2009  
**Meeting Time:** 6:00–7:55pm  
**Meeting Location:** Lone Star College-Montgomery  
**Previous Meeting:** November 6, 2008  
**Next Meeting:** Fall 2009

## Present:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officio Members and/or Their Representatives (Name &amp; Affiliation)</th>
<th>Ex-Officio Members (Name &amp; Affiliation)</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Anne Bettinger  
The University of Texas M.D. Anderson School of Health Sciences | Ron Dewlen – Lone Star College-Montgomery  
Dean, Division of Natural Sciences & Health Professions |
| James Frost  
BioTX | Sue Jan Herber – Lone Star College-Montgomery  
Counselor, Division of Natural Sciences & Health Professions |
| Henry Hebel  
VGXI, Inc. | Danny Kainer – Lone Star College-Montgomery  
Director, Biotechnology Institute |
| Cruz Hinojos  
Bruker Optics | Nancy Prejean – Lone Star College-Montgomery  
Biotechnology Specialist |
| Phil Lyons  
University of Houston-Downtown |                                      |
| Alexa Noble  
Conroe Independent School District |                                      |
| Doel Rodriguez  
Skin Medica |                                      |
| Scott Sample  
Sigma Genovys Biotechnologies |                                      |
| Janet Varela  
Kelly Scientific Resources |                                      |

## I. Welcome / Introductions / Call to Order

Following dinner, Ron Dewlen welcomed everyone and thanked the advisory committee members for sharing their time to attend. Then everyone introduced themselves.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 6:25pm in Room A102 at Lone Star College-Montgomery.

## II. Minutes

The minutes of the November 6, 2008, meeting were reviewed. During the review, Danny Kainer updated the committee on two follow-up items in the minutes.
In Item III, Reports, Section A, Enrollment, third paragraph, Danny reported that community college workforce certificate programs are not required to follow the course requirements of U.S. history and government for international students in certificate programs at the universities.

In Item IV, New Business, Section B, Curriculum Changes, third paragraph, Danny clarified that the college’s biotechnology program currently has 71 credit hours, with the maximum being 72 credit hours.

Following these updates, a motion was made by James Frost to accept the minutes, seconded by Cruz Hinojos, and approved unanimously.

III. Reports

A. Enrollment

Danny reported that there are currently 15 graduating students in the program who are actively seeking internships for the upcoming summer semester. The internship is usually an eight week experience. Danny reminded the committee that he is always available to discuss the internship process. He also invited the committee members to come to campus to visit with the students enrolled in BITC 1191, which is the pre-internship class, and promote their companies as possible internship sites for the students.

The students are required to take BITC 1191 twice before doing their internships. During the fall semester prior to internship, the focus of the class is on resume preparation; then in the following spring semester, the focus of the class is on cover letters and polishing interview skills. Danny asked the committee for their feedback on the interns – how do their resumes look, how do they interview, etc.

The advanced technical certificate (ATC) program is becoming even more popular. It is a condensed version of college’s associate degree program. The ATC program is attracting students with vast and varying backgrounds, and it now has more students than the associate degree program.

B. Outreach

Danny reported that this year’s SciTech science fair, held at the college earlier this spring, was a great outreach opportunity for the biotech students who served as judges. He noted that the students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and are still talking about it.

Another new outreach effort will be to have students in the program visit local high schools. It is hoped that this will be an effective tool to interest high school students in biotechnology by hearing firsthand from peers about the program. Since this outreach idea came about late in the Spring 2009 semester, Danny will make several visits at this time to schools that have expressed interest in the program, and then the student outreach model will be implemented in the near future. Danny will be visiting Splendora, Magnolia and Montgomery high schools.

C. Skills Standards Alignment Award

Danny reported that the program’s skills standards are a finished product and that they have been aligned with the skills standards that have been adopted by Austin Community College and Collin County Community College. The skills standards grid will be added to each course’s syllabus beginning in the Fall 2009 semester.

D. Podcasts

As a follow up to the TSSB Skill Standards grant monies that were spent on podcasting equipment for the program, Danny reported that the podcasts are serving two focuses – externally for recruiting students for the program, and internally by providing podcasts on various topics, such as demonstrating proper lab techniques. Danny asked the committee members to participate in creating additional podcasts for the program.
IV. New Business

A. Curriculum Changes

As has been discussed at previous meetings, The State has proposed that the introductory class, BITC 1211, no longer be offered as a two hour course. The State has not yet mandated this change, but when it does, the college will have a grace period to implement the introductory course as either BITC 1311, a three hour course, or BITC 1411, a four hour course.

Danny presented the pros and cons of both new course options.

BITC 1311 –
- This three hour course would not meet a core science class requirement.
- This would be the easier course to incorporate because its addition would not exceed the 72 credit hour limit for the program.

BITC 1411 –
- This four hour course can be taught as academic or workforce.
- It would be another option for students who need a core science class.
- It could serve as an outreach course to generate interest in biotechnology for the general students enrolled in the course.
- This course would be more difficult to incorporate since one hour would have to be deleted from elsewhere in the curriculum to accommodate this course being added.

Discussion:
- Could the students take BITC 1191 only once while in the program instead of twice as the curriculum is currently designed? This would free up the one hour needed to allow incorporation of the BITC 1411 course. The advisory committee was very adamant that BITC 1191 remain in the curriculum twice, once in the fall semester and once in the spring semester prior to the internship. The unanimous sentiment of the committee was that the value of this class to the students is very important, as the students are more polished and prepared to enter the workforce as a result of having taken the course twice.
- Could the second semester of BITC 1191 be offered as a work readiness class through the Continuing Education department? But would students take the course? How could they be encouraged to take the course?
- It was recommended that the speech requirement be dropped from the program’s curriculum. Justification for this recommendation was that students are required to give many presentations throughout the two-year program and this gives them the communication skills needed in industry. In addition, committee members from the university level in attendance reported that speech is no longer required by many of the four year schools. It was felt that the deletion of speech to allow BITC 1191 x 2 to remain in the curriculum and to accommodate the incorporation of BITC 1411 would result in a student highly prepared to enter the workforce.

Following discussion, the chair called for a vote by show of hands by the officio members whether the program should implement BITC 1311 or BITC 1411.

- Implementation of the introductory course as BITC 1311 – there was no one in favor of this option.
- Implementation of the introductory course as BITC 1411 – there was a unanimous show of hands for this option, along with reiteration from the advisory committee that they do not want the program to give up BITC 1191 x 2 in order to incorporate the BITC 1411 course.

Ron Dewlen will share this decision with college administration, and he and Danny will prepare various scenarios for the incorporation of BITC 1411 into the curriculum for the advisory committee to review at the Fall meeting. In
addition, Danny will contact Collin County Community College and find out what they did and how they incorporated their new introductory course and share his findings at the Fall meeting.

B. New Health Science Building

Danny showed the current floor layouts for the college’s new two-story 60,000 square foot health science building. The advisory committee expressed concern about the transport of biohazardous materials among the various labs on the second floor by having to use the general classroom hallway. The committee suggested that a service corridor be added to the design or that a restricted access model be incorporated as has been designed in the health occupations area on the first floor of the building. When the design process moves from the general building layout phase to the layout of the rooms, the advisory committee will be asked for their ideas for the design of the new biotech lab.

Ron informed the committee that the division will retain the current biotech lab space when the lab is relocated to the new building. He asked the committee for their ideas for the re-design / re-use of the current lab space once it is vacated.

In closing, Danny thanked the advisory committee for their continued support of and time commitments to the program.

V. Call for Adjournment

The Chair called for adjournment at 7:55pm. Motion made by Cruz Hinojos, seconded by Doel Rodriguez, and supported unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Johanson  
Division Coordinator, Natural Sciences & Health Professions

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<tr>
<th>ADVISORY BOARD OFFICERS / APPROVAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RECORDER: Kathy Johanson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Signature: [Signature] Date: 4/26/09</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHAIR: Scott Sample</td>
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<td>Signature: [Signature] Date: 4/28/09</td>
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