



MINUTES ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD 4/30/21 – MICROSOFT TEAMS

Date of Meeting: 4/30/21

Members Present:

Theresa Afify, Marilyn Browne, Sandra Davis, Rick Gilbert, Amanda Gilleland, Waunda Henry, Laurel Lynch, Natavia Middleton, Maura Scanlon, Sean Williams and Jacob Wortock

Members Excused:

Shea Dunifon, Samuel Henderson and Kelli Levy

Others present:

N/A

Call to order:

4/30/21 – 2:00 pm by Chair of Natural Science, Seminole Campus, Amanda Gilleland

Previous Minutes Approved:

Motion to approve 11/18/20 minutes made and approved unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

HOW COVID 19 HAS AFFECTED THE COLLEGE – *Amanda Gilleland spoke about vaccines and how they are now available to everyone, the college is preparing to return to pre-covid scheduling. We are waiting to see what mask requirements will be in place (it was announced after this meeting masks will no longer be required on the SPC campus for vaccinated staff and students). Many of our environmental classes will be offered online as well as face-to-face in order to reach the most students. Amanda also spoke about how the Environmental program has been scaled down to two sub plans and scaled back on offerings to drive students into the classes. The Advisory Board will also looking to be able to have guest speakers as well.*

Program Updates:

PROGRAM ENROLLMENT, COURSEWORK, GRADUATION INFORMATION – *Theresa Afify – spoke about how this year we have experienced a decrease. This decrease may fluctuate up a little bit in part because a new transfer plan has been put in place to help completion rates. Fall enrollment started this past Monday. Theresa also showed a slide that shared the enrollments in each of the programs; there is one student in the Sustainability program, three students in the Environmental Resource program, we have 73 students in the Environmental Resource Conservation program, 43 students in the Water Resource Management program and finally two students in the Water Quality Technology program. We have two subplans that are going thru the process of being shut down and there are still a few students in them that are finishing the programs. This fall we do not have any students graduating from the program but this spring we will have two students.*

EVENTS – *Theresa also spoke about the events the college hosted this past semester. A virtual Career Drop-In Event has offered twice a month for students who needed help with their resumes, career questions etc. Career Services also holds every Wednesday a workshop to help students going into the work force. Another key event that was offered was an event called “Design Your Future in Science” with a focus on Geospacial Technology with two speakers. We did see a reduction of events due to student burn out on Zoom. Next fall we will host another Night in Science. We encourage the use of HIRE SPC TITANS if your company is looking for employees. If interested in engaging, please contact Theresa, she is always interested in bringing those connections to the students.*

Subcommittee Reports:

N/A

Student Update:

N/A

Career Outreach Specialist:

Jacob Wartock spoke about how they are really encouraging the use of HIRE SPC TITANS but also would like them to contact him directly as well. When he is aware of the opportunities he can better make the connections and is interested in partnering. He stated the college is always looking for partnering and connections. Theresa Afify mentioned that Tallahassee is working on passing a new bill to help students get jobs after graduating from a program within in 6 months. If the student does not get a job, they will be eligible for a refund of their college tuition. We are not sure which programs will be included in the program yet, but the bill is expected to pass. Sean Williams questioned if paid internships count as a job? Amanda Gilleland reiterated we are always looking for job and career opportunities anywhere within the community and nationwide and asked if anyone knows about anything that would be helpful to a candidate, to please pass it along. Sean Williams mentioned he may have some leads in the tech industry with environmental planning. He will also reach out to some civil engineers to see if any of them would like to join this board. Sandra Davis announced that her company is hiring again. She also mentioned that every five years the EPA does a drinking water assessment. If they determine the water infrastructure should be grown there will be a need for more operators, and jobs. She also announced there is a Solid Waste Technician position posted on the Pinellas County website. Waunda Henry mentioned she has a Plant Water Treatment Operation entry level position open right now. She also mentioned a 2-year apprenticeship program with Florida Water that is available for anyone.

Rick Gilbert announced this will be last day he is in the office because he will be in a construction trailer for the rest of the year due to a tornado hitting his office earlier this year. The silver lining is that they have insurance and by next year they will be in a new building. Therefore unfortunately, they will not be able to offer an internship, but they will resume offering one next year for sure. Sean Williams added that they may be able to help and hire an intern to assist with their current project in Antigua. Jacob Wartock said he would follow up with Sean Williams. Irvin Kety said he is still waiting to hear on the internship they spoke about last week. He is just waiting on an email to the analyst to get the final approval. He will also have a funded position next fall.

New Business:

ADVISORY BOARD FOR NEXT YEAR – Amanda Gilleland spoke about how we are in the process of updating our rosters for the next academic year. She informed the board that they will hear from Laurel Lynch regarding their wishes to remain on the Advisory Board for the upcoming academic year and asking if they needed to update any of their contact information. Amanda also asked if any of the board members have any recommendations for anyone else that may be interested to be a part of the Advisory Board.

NEXT MEETING DATE IN THE FALL – Microsoft Teams and maybe in person (date, location, and time TBD). Amanda Gilleland will send out a survey to see when everyone is available.