BOA Meeting Minutes

Date: July 25th, 2024

Attendees:

* Elizabeth Schott Dean, SPAS
* Angus Cameron Associate Dean, SPAS
* Martin McClinton AVPAA
* Michael Sauer Faculty
* Wesley Burnside The Mannheimer Foundation, Inc
* Justin Gill Arthrex
* Adrienne Martin Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve
* Daniel Marulanda Hertz

Summary:

Elizabeth, the Dean of the School of Pure and Applied Science, discussed recent program updates, future goals, and potential curriculum changes, including the acquisition of new resources and the establishment of new programs such as a veterinary technology program and a zoo animal technology degree. Additionally, they discussed the need to improve teaching of data analysis and Excel skills.

Next steps:

• Elizabeth will explore the possibility of creating a separate AS degree program in animal technology and develop a grant proposal for the program.

• Elizabeth will work with the business faculty to explore common second stats curriculum changes across the state.

**Board of Advisors Meeting**

Elizabeth, the Dean of the School of Pure and Applied Science, convened the second Board of Advisors meeting since its establishment. The attendees included Martin McClinton, Adrienne, Daniel Marulanda, Justin, and TFawcett. The team introduced themselves and their respective roles. Elizabeth expressed her appreciation for the attendees' time and support, acknowledging that the program needed some adjustments based on the advice given.

Program Updates and Future Goals

Elizabeth discussed recent changes to the program, updates to FSW, and future goals. She highlighted that FSW is seeking accreditation through the Higher Learning Commission due to recent Florida State legislation, and has updated its mission statement and hired new faculty. The focus for the meeting was on the AS degree and the CCC degree, with Elizabeth presenting changes made to the evaluation cycles and the framework for the AS degree. She also proposed four goals for the program and provided an update on the graduation rate and upcoming curriculum changes. Martin and Mike were present as they are working on a grant proposal, and Elizabeth and Martin discussed changes to their organization's mission statement.

Faculty Resources and Lab Course Updates

Elizabeth proposed acquiring resources for faculty equipment and travel funds to align lab course activities with industry needs. Martin then discussed the college's involvement in two National Science Foundation grants aimed at enhancing the skill sets of entry-level technicians in biotechnology and quality assurance, and improving lab safety procedures. Elizabeth further elaborated on plans to modernize chemistry and microbiology courses, including the introduction of faster coliform testing techniques and quality control procedures. She also mentioned plans for workshops for high school students and teachers, and a new class focused on industrial lab technology. Daniel suggested reaching out to the agricultural technology plant at UF for potential insights.

Program Success, Grant Deadlines, and Expansion

Elizabeth discussed the success of their program in attracting responses from environmental labs and county wastewater facilities due to their need for employees. She mentioned the upcoming grant deadlines and their focus on the biotech and data analytics tracks. Elizabeth also brought up the possibility of creating a second statistics class and a vet tech program in response to student and workforce demand. The team considered the challenges and opportunities of establishing a zoo animal technology degree, including the need for hands-on training and potential partnerships with local veterinary locations.

Veterinary Technology Program Proposal

Wesley, a veterinarian, identified a significant need for a veterinary technology program in their area due to the lack of such programs and the high cost of relocating for education. He found the animal technology program at the zoo to be a good fit and saw numerous job opportunities in the region. Elizabeth acknowledged the need and proposed to establish the program under the new accreditation, anticipating a year-long process for approval and further curriculum changes. She also offered any necessary assistance.

Discussing Poster Work and Capstone Course

Adrienne inquired about the requirement of poster work or presentations in the program. Elizabeth explained that the need for such assignments varies by course and program, but a creative capstone course, which includes a presentation or poster, is an optional course that most students take. She acknowledged the need to ensure all students gain this experience and proposed to examine this further. Elizabeth also suggested the possibility of hosting biannual meetings, alternating between online and in-person sessions, to showcase their labs and facilities.

Team Discusses Data Analysis and Excel Skills

Elizabeth expresses appreciation for the team's time and looks forward to having more questions in the next meeting, which will be held in person. Daniel shares that the rental car industry has been stressful due to changes and a new CEO being appointed. He offers assistance with data science needs. Elizabeth discusses the need to improve teaching of data analysis and Excel skills, particularly in math classes, as these are crucial workforce skills. She notes the retirement of Rona, who modernized the statistics class, and the importance of continuing that progress.