

Biological Sciences Department Meeting Minutes

Convocation – August 17, 2026 Recorded by: Dr. Gerald Anzalone

1. Faculty Accomplishments – Summer 2026

- **Dr. Mitchell Lucas** – Led a major mosquito-research partnership with the Collier Mosquito Control District, providing students hands-on experience in public health, environmental science, entomology, field sampling, microscopy, and ecological impact studies.
- **Dr. Katrin Koel** – Facilitator for FSW's *Future Ready: Career Exploration Teen Camps*, guiding students through forensic investigation and crime-science programming.
- **Prof. Jessica Slisher** – Met all Quality Matters requirements for the *BSC1010L Master Online* course.
- **Prof. Adriel Brito Llera** – Completed Smithsonian Water Guide field testing with 18 EVR/BSC students (to be listed as authors upon publication); contributed to the 2026 FSW AI Fellowship; served on the Learning Assessment Committee; participated in the Florida Winter School on PBPK Modelling.
- **Prof. Amanda Zirzow** – Led microbiology students on a field trip to the Fiesta Village Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant, teaching how beneficial microorganisms support wastewater treatment and environmental stewardship.

2. Constructive Feedback from Morning Convocation Sessions

- Key points from morning discussions were reviewed.
- Actionable improvements identified for departmental processes and instructional practices.

3. Hurricane Contingency Planning

- Faculty reminded to update instructional continuity plans.
- Expectations reviewed for communication, LMS readiness, and alternative delivery methods during potential closures.

4. Faculty Mentor Assignments

- **Confirmed:**
 - Dr. Mike Fritz → Mentor: Dr. Corey Lehigh
- **Assigned:**
 - Dr. Joe Cusick → Mentor: Dr. Amy Lehigh (class observation required)
 - Dr. Laura West → Mentor: TBD (online course evaluation needed)

5. IGCC Committee Formation

Committee membership established for each candidate (two department-selected members, one candidate-selected; all continuing-contract faculty):

- **Dr. Amy Lehigh** – Dr. Jay Koepke, Dr. Teju Vala, Dr. Esmaeel Samaliazad
- **Prof. Amanda Zirzow** – Dr. Gerald Anzalone, Dr. Teju Vala, Dr. Esmaeel Samaliazad
- **Dr. Corey Lehigh** – Dr. Ed Hooks, Dr. Esmaeel Samaliazad, Dr. Jay Koepke
- **Prof. Lisa Hermann** – Dr. Peggy Romeo, Dr. Gerald Anzalone, Dr. Esmaeel Samaliazad

6. Standing Committee Representation (2026–2027)

- Reviewed current Biological Sciences representation.
- Discussed opportunities on the AS/AA Assessment Committee; interested faculty to contact Gus & Libby.
- Considered standing committee placement for Ronald Burton and Eli Medina.

7. Course Review and Assessment

- **BSC 1010:** Learning objectives will be revised for improved alignment with best practices and institutional expectations.
- Comment assessment will be updated per recommendations in the Assessment Report.

8. Next Steps

- Department will reconvene in September (second Friday of the month) to review progress on all agenda items.