Biological Sciences Advisory DRAFT
Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2023 | 5:00 pm | 1687 or Zoom

LPC Mission Statement
Las Positas College is an inclusive, learning-centered, equity-focused environment that offers educational opportunities and support for completion of students’ transfer, degree, and career-technical goals while promoting lifelong learning.

LPC Planning Priorities
❖ Establish a knowledge base and an appreciation for equity; create a sense of urgency about moving toward equity; institutionalize equity in decision-making, assessment, and accountability; and build capacity to resolve inequities.
❖ Increase student success and completion through change in college practices and processes: coordinating needed academic support, removing barriers, and supporting focused professional development across the campus.

Committee Name Quorum
Voting Members:
Chandra Khantwal
Dana Nakase Yolanda Fintchesko
Dianna Maar
George Farquar
Jason Maxwell
Jean O’Neil-Opipari
Kai Blaisdell
Josie Sette
Kristen Wolslegal
Linnea Fletcher
Tom Orf
Nicholas Heredia
Nicole Shapiro
Petter Mattei
Pornima Rao
Robert Saul
Sahar El-ETr
Segal Boaz
Stephanie Sibert
Stevan Jovanovich
Sulatha Dwarakanath
Victoria VanderNoot

1. Call to Order
• Jason, Dana, George, Kai, Tom Orf, Nicole Shapiro (Blackhawk Genomics), Stevan, Nick Heredia, Diana Maar (email for new company), Yolanda

2. Review and Approval of Agenda
Moved Nicole, 2nd Segal, motion carries

3. Review and Approval of Minutes, March 30, 2023
George, Segal, Nicole, Tom abstain, Motion Carries

4. Industry Updates
• Emerging Trends, Industry needs
  o Tons of layoffs happening in this space
  o Hardest it has ever been to raise funds, will affect internships
  o Hiring experienced personnel could be easier now
  o Lot of talent on the market now
  o AS lab jobs become more scarce, marketing, sales, and other careers may open
  o Diversity of skills is very important, degree does not matter as much
  o Bench jobs scarce; what is the next step
  o Regulatory positions may be an opportunity
  o Shortage in clinical labs, talk about a shortage of technicians. Need to be licensed in the state of CA (CLS) (To do CPR, toxicology)
  o Share this info with LPC counselors
• Internship/Employment Opportunities

5. Program Report
• Enrollment (slides)
  o LPC enrollment up 15% from fall, 2022
  o Biology enrollment up
• Updates on ATE Grant (Bio-badges)
  o New biotech experiences incorporated into bio majors
  o In future students will learn to build LinkedIn profile and can add digital badges to it
  o Students get badged in the first couple of semesters
  o Micro balance training important
  o Skill – how to buffer
o Can you make a solution of a specific concentration and volume
o Would like to incorporate serial dilutions into cell and molecular biology class
  ▪ Understanding the limitations of tools
o Fear of math is a problem, lack of skills built during COVID
  ▪ It’s okay to be bad at math, just don’t be afraid of it
  ▪ Check each other
  ▪ Have students remember key equations
o Teach proper lab skills: washing, closing down the lab at the end of the day, proper chemical handling
o Is LPC connected to developers building affordable housing (EIR)? Construction requires environmental impact reports (ecology, zoology).
  ▪ Yolanda will look at contacts through the city of Livermore
  ▪ Grants available for outdoor, environmental work (bird counting, owl habitat, etc)
• Offering Bioinformatics & Field Biology this Spring
  o Watching enrollment, probably won’t have leeway for enrollment numbers
• Update on Biotech Bootcamp follow-up
  o 2 weeks full or almost full
  o Transition from camp to noncredit course
    ▪ May make general enrollment easier
    ▪ Noncredit course offered this summer
    ▪ Funding more stable
• Biology and Botany positions will be posted during the Spring semester
• Angel new full time biology/anatomy instructor
  o Allied Health position
  o Botanist position
• Update on STEAM Building
  o Smith Group architecture firm
  o Early in the process
  o Fall, lab design, and building design meetings
  o Forward-facing flexible lab space that people from off campus can use - still in planning phase
  o 7 labs
  o Three major concepts for project
    ▪ Canopy
    ▪ Terrace
    ▪ Crossing

6. Good of the Order
   • Nick and George had a great time guest speaking at the Biotech Bootcamp
     o Kai also learned something new
   • Diana values her community college experience and the solid base it gave her.
   • LPC college rankings, #1

7. Adjournment
   • Moved by Nick and Jason 2nd, adjourned at 6:00

8. Tentative date for next regular meeting:
   Thursday, May 16, 2024, 5:00 – 6:30 PM hybrid