

# Minutes

## Advisory Board Meeting Biotechnology Program, Oklahoma City Community College

Friday, April 11, 2008  
8:00 a.m.  
Conference Room ARL  
845 Research Pkwy  
OKC

### *Board members present:*

Robert Gonzales	Noble Foundation, Ardmore
Eric Howard	OUHSC
Brad Johnson	Manager, Purification Development, Cytovance
Tom Kupiec	CEO, Analytical Research Laboratories (ARL), DNA Solutions
Craig Shimasaki	President and CEO, InterGenetics
Frank Waxman	Director, Oklahoma EPSCoR, Professor, Dept. Microbiology and Immunology, OUHSC
Matt Gonzalez	OKState Health Dept, former OCCC program graduate
Mike Centola	Riley Genomics
Charlotte Mulvihill	OCCC

Fabiola Janiak-Spens OCCC, Director of Biotechnology Program

### *Board members absent:*

Paul Cook	Professor of Biochemistry, OU
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#### 1. *Director's Report:*

Dr. Janiak-Spens reported to the board that to date the biotechnology program has graduated a total of 47 students (AAS and Certificate combined), this year there are 4 students in the program.

#### 2. *OCAST Grant for Internships:*

The board members were informed about the recently applied for and awarded OCAST Internship Partnership grant that will fund up to 7 student internship per year for 2 years. Dr. Janiak-Spens thanked the members that are partners in this grant for their support and willingness to take and support interns through this grant.

3. *Industry Trends, Recommendations:*

Dr. Shimasaki and several other members recommended including cGMP, Quality Control and Quality Assurance in the curriculum of the biotechnology classes. Dr. Janiak-Spens informed the board that this is already taking place as part of the biomanufacturing class. Dr. Kupiec recommended to also include information on ICH (International Conference on Harmonisation).

4. *OKBio:*

Dr. Janiak-Spens sought input from the board members about OKBio, the newly formed Oklahoma Bioscience Association. Board members seemed to agree that the \$5000 per year for 4 year buy-in of an equivalent academic facility (Tulsa Community College) may be too high a price for the product (advertising space). However, members did agree that OKBio will be very useful in promoting Oklahoma's Bioscience industry. Dr. Shimasaki is a founding member of the board of directors of OKBio. He said that he will work with OCCC Biotechnology on receiving advertising space from OKBio. Dr. Janiak-Spens will contact him with regard to this offer.

5. *Marketing:*

Student enrollment, most likely due to low awareness of the program, has remained low. All board members agreed that the product, a highly trained biotechnician workforce, is of high quality and demand. Starting salaries in the local industry as reported by some of the board members are at least \$25,000-30,000 for our program graduates. Frank Waxman suggested that students maybe hesitant about entering the program because they do not find transfer opportunities to expand on their education or that there are not many job opportunities for AAS degree only graduates. However, Dr. Janiak-Spens reported, and several members consented, that program graduates have been highly qualified by their companies and they have a need for more technicians that were trained through the biotechnology program. Transfer credit is possible for about 40 credit hours. Dr. Janiak-Spens reported on her efforts to receive transfer credit to OU for 2 of the biotechnology classes that do not transfer currently. The board supported the effort.

Dr. Shimasaki suggested using a PR company to market the program. He can recommend a company that has worked for him and is relatively inexpensive. Dr. Janiak-Spens did state that OCCC has a PR department.

6. *Adjourned:*

8:55 am

Respectfully submitted by:  
Fabiola Janiak-Spens  
4-11-2008