



SCC Biotech Advisory Committee Meeting - Winter Quarter 2025

Meeting Date & Time: Jan. 31, 2025, 9:00-10:30AM

Committee Chair: *open position*

*Meeting will be chaired by Rachel Rawle

Resources: [Google Drive Folder - SCC Biotech Advisory Committee](#)

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Committee Business
 - Approval of minutes: [October 2024 meeting minutes](#)
 - Review of [committee responsibilities](#)
 - Nominations for committee chair and vice chair (See page 8 of [handbook](#) for duties)
3. Announcements from group
4. Updates on current initiatives - SCC faculty ([Slides](#))
 - Lab technician funding - Finalize [committee letter of support](#)
6. Group Discussion: Feedback from program review survey
 - a. Top comments - Increasing enrollment & expanding internship opportunities

AI Meeting Summary

Next steps

- Dan to send out the letter of support for lab technician funding to committee members for signatures.
- Rachel to send Srikant a flyer for the February career panel to be included in the Life Science Washington newsletter.

- Rachel and Orlando to explore the possibility of giving a presentation at the upcoming Life Science Washington Northwest Conference in April.
- Rachel and Orlando to reconsider the approach to summer camps, potentially focusing on targeted outreach to Title I schools (classroom visits and/or campus visits with lab activities) or teacher professional development instead.

Meeting Summary

Committee Roles and Nominations Discussed

Rachel led the meeting, which was attended by various committee members, including a new member who couldn't attend. The meeting began with a review of the committee responsibilities, which were outlined in a shared document. The roles of the chair and vice chair were discussed, with Daniel and Arthur nominated for these positions. [The committee approved these nominations](#) (approvals taken as text in chat). Rachel also mentioned the need for a quorum for the meeting and the importance of committee members attending all meetings. The conversation ended with an open floor for announcements from the group.

New Roles, Programs, and Funding Updates

Joy shared her new role as Associate Director of Downstream Development at Immunivant, a remote company working with manufacturing in China and Denmark. Jim discussed a new program at their college, California, addressing a national shortage of clinical research coordinators. Srikant informed the group about a new internship program for opportunity scholars and a task force to bridge gaps in building capacity with Shoreline. Rachel shared updates from their end, including a material prep workshop for high school teachers, tours for multiple programs, and upcoming events such as a career panel and student showcase. The group also discussed the importance of funding for their lab technician salary and agreed to finalize a letter of support for this purpose.

Student Programs and Workflow Updates

Rachel discussed the progress of their student programs grant, which is being used to expand internship opportunities. She mentioned that all students will likely be in an internship this summer. Rachel also talked about the pilot for the Integrated Basic Education Skills Training (IBEST) program, which has been positively received by ESL students. She mentioned that feedback from instructors and students will be gathered once the quarter ends. Rachel also shared updates on the development and testing of a monoclonal antibody workflow, which is nearing implementation. Joy offered her assistance with downstream processes, and Rachel accepted the offer.

Expanding Enrollment and Outreach Efforts

Rachel discussed the ongoing efforts to increase enrollment and expand internship options at the college. She mentioned the integration of the International Baccalaureate (IB) program with transitional studies and ESL, and the recruitment of students from these programs. Rachel also highlighted the college's work on increasing awareness among on-campus groups, the development of new bio-manufacturing videos and pamphlets, and the hiring of an adult learner outreach coordinator. She mentioned the college's active industry connections and K-12 outreach, including articulations with 19 schools and plans for high school students to tour the new Cedar building. Rachel also mentioned the development of a biomanufacturing kit for high schools and a partnership with Seattle public schools for summer camps. She invited feedback and suggestions on increasing enrollment and outreach.

Boosting Biotechnology Program Enrollment

Rachel led a discussion on strategies to increase enrollment in the biotechnology program. Jim emphasized the importance of additional laboratory skills and the reputation of the program's placement rate in driving enrollment. Sandra shared her research on biotech programs over the last 20 years and suggested the importance of on-campus advertising and alumni networking. Richard agreed with the on-campus advertising strategy and suggested reaching out to the University of Washington and Pfizer for potential support.

Biotech Lab Experience and Outreach

Rachel, Joy, Orlando, and Vasudha discussed the potential for students to gain lab experience at UW Bothell and the possibility of tuition reimbursement from biotech companies. They also considered the idea of offering professional development opportunities to those already working in the biotech industry. Daniel suggested understanding the current landscape of outreach and cause, sustaining and expanding the network, and collecting data on placement rates and starting salaries. He also emphasized the importance of engaging alumni networks.

Bio-Manufacturing Job Challenges and Solutions

The discussion revolved around the challenges faced by students in securing jobs in the bio-manufacturing industry, particularly those with only a 2-year degree or certificate. The team agreed that many job advertisements require a 4-year degree, which can be a deterrent for students. However, they also noted that some companies, like Amgen, offer a range of experience levels, and having relevant skills or a reference can help students get past the initial screening. The team also discussed the importance of networking and personal referrals in securing jobs. Additionally, the team discussed the potential of building relationships with incubators and venture capitalists to provide students with opportunities in startups. The consensus was that as the program builds its reputation, it will become more competitive in the industry.

Negotiating Salaries and Job Offers

The team discussed strategies for negotiating salaries, particularly for students entering the job market. Joy shared her experience of negotiating her first job offer and emphasized the importance of researching the market and understanding the company's needs. Vasudha sought advice on how to guide her students in salary negotiations, and Joy recommended using Glassdoor and industry reports. Srikant suggested involving HR representatives in discussions to understand the company's needs and expectations. The team also discussed the importance of negotiation beyond salary, including benefits and work arrangements. The conversation concluded with a discussion about the potential for a news piece highlighting the evolution of hiring practices in the biotech industry.

Summer Camps Program Feasibility Discussion

Rachel led a discussion about the feasibility and benefits of continuing the summer camps program. Richard and Jim shared their experiences, noting that while the camps were well-attended and enjoyed by students, they often attracted students seeking to enhance their resumes rather than those genuinely interested in biotech. Jim suggested focusing on recruiting teachers from underfunded schools, as they might send more students. Richard proposed targeting students directly through lectures at schools, highlighting the program as an option after high school. The team agreed to consider these suggestions and potentially partner with Seattle public schools for a more equitable approach.

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