



Meeting Minutes
September 24th, 2012, 11:05am
Life Sciences South Florida Executive Committee Meeting (Conference Call)

Attendees: President Mark B. Rosenberg (Florida International University), Vice President Irma Becerra-Fernandez (Florida International University), Provost Ronald Toll (Florida Gulf Coast University), Andrew Duffell (Research Park at Florida Atlantic University), Provost Rolando Montoya (Miami Dade College), President Mary Jane Saunders (Florida Atlantic University), President Ed Massey (Indian River State College), Roy Pocknee (Dean of Academic Affairs at Broward College), Jaap Donath (Beacon Council), and Robert Swindell (President of Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance), Vice President Gary Margules (Nova Southeastern University), Dean Heather Belmont (Miami Dade College)

Not in attendance: Dr. Ivan Baines (Chief Operating Officer, Max Planck Florida Institute), Dr. Dawn Johnson (Sr. Director for Scientific Operations, Scripps Florida), Dr. Norma Kenyon (Chief Innovation Officer, University of Miami), Dr. Dennis Gallon (President, Palm Beach State College), Ms. Kelly Smallridge (President, Business Development Board of Palm Beach)

I. Review and Approval of July 19th, 2013 LSSF Meeting Minutes

President Rosenberg motioned to approve the July 19th, 2012 Life Sciences South Florida (LSSF) Executive Committee meeting minutes and they were approved.

II. New Business - Dr. Irma Becerra-Fernandez

Dr. Becerra-Fernandez introduced Jenesis Ramirez as the new Engagement Coordinator and announced the launch of the Life Sciences South Florida newsletter in the first week of September. She also confirmed that the newsletter will be published on a quarterly basis.

A. BioFlorida Conference

Dr. Becerra-Fernandez briefly discussed the logistics of manning the LSSF booth at the BioFlorida Conference.

B. Convening with the Life Sciences Industries

This discussion was primarily between President Rosenberg and President Saunders.

President Rosenberg: President Saunders and I will be hosting life science institutions because we want to know the needs and concerns of all industries and we want to understand how we can better align our respective interests to make sure we are in sync. We are holding our first meeting in one month at Reagan House.

President Saunders: We should look into using South Florida Business Journal to promote our events. They like to use specialized editions. Here in Boca, MedUTech was formed, which is parallel to LSSF. It is a small local meeting and there is a newspaper edition that is sent to all South Florida Business subscribers. This parallels what LSSF is attempting to do and I think we should look at MedUTech especially in regards to how they promote their own initiative.

Dr. Becerra-Fernandez: I will attach the MedUTech materials to identify a few opportunities to get involved with MedUTech.

President Rosenberg: Does anyone have any input on these Industry Meetings we are preparing to hold? We will be getting a report back to you once the first meeting has taken place.



The convening of the industries was explained a bit further briefly before Dr. Becerra-Fernandez commenced her update on the Small Business Administration grant.

C. Small Business Administration Grant

Dr. Becerra-Fernandez: We had a very short time to submit this proposal (Small Business Administration Grant) but the purpose is to create a portal where small businesses in South Florida can have access to resources from those organizations in LSSF. The proposal was submitted on August 6th, 2012 for the total amount of \$385,000. We want to improve opportunities for success for small businesses. This proposal can be for up to 5 years of funding, but we only proposed for 1 year for now. Our goal is to share resources if we do get funded.

III. Subcommittee Reports

A. Shared Communication Portal Subcommittee – update by Dr. Margules

Dr. Margules: Dr. Matthias Fichtner presented the instrumental and architectural part of building the shared communication portal. I think the committee learned developing the portal does not happen overnight. Even if all universities pay a fee and are on board to do this, it takes time. This takes enormous resources. At Max Planck, they prioritized on getting equipment online. We should consider an interim solution since a portal exactly like that created at Max Planck will take much time and resources to develop. The DRESDEN Portal requires members to pay a fee to be included. We all agreed that all institutions need to benefit from being in the portal, otherwise they will not stay. At Max Planck, it was important that each of their members agreed it was worth creating and launching the portal.

President Rosenberg: Does anyone have any thoughts for an intermediate solution?

President Saunders: I was not on the call, but I think an intermediate solution would be in place. This is a good step.

Dr. Margules: We need something more now than later. Our situation is more complicated; they (DRESDEN Concept at Max Planck) had fewer members and were geographically very close. We should include the contact information for all instruments and call that contact person for information about the equipment and then proceed to work out the rental and payment individually. We must have a uniform payment schedule.

Provost Montoya: I support this intermediate step.

President Massey: I think it is a good intermediate step. We have employed a similar method in our region and it works.

Dr. Becerra-Fernandez: We must try to operationalize an intermediation solution that allows us to display our equipment through an inventory.

Dr. Margules: We should create a profile of scientific services and equipment profiles. This collaboration and effort will be worth a lot of money even at the intermediate level.

B. Asset Map and Cluster Subcommittee – update by Dr. Becerra-Fernandez

Dr. Becerra-Fernandez: Could we have an intermediate solution for an asset map and cluster analysis? The cost of creating an Asset Map and Cluster Analysis through the services of Avalanche was about \$300,000. We discussed in

the subcommittee call what some of the key components were and decided it would be best to do something with our own capabilities. Andrew Duffell decided he would go ahead and create a plan and lead the project of completing an Asset Map and Cluster Analysis. Dr. Becerra-Fernandez listed the 4 components of putting Asset Map and Cluster Analysis together, as discussed on the subcommittee call: 1. Collecting complete and reliable data, 2. Collating information and inputting it into an interactive database, 3. Graphics, and 4. Creating a marketing brochure.

Provost Montoya and President Saunders both agreed that taking on this initiative is worth the time and resources; they agreed we should move forward with working on creating our own Asset Map and Cluster Analysis internally.

President Rosenberg and Dr. Becerra-Fernandez both agreed that a timetable for the creation of the Asset Map and Cluster Analysis is necessary and beneficial.

C. STEM K-20 Student and Workforce Development Subcommittee – update by Provost Montoya

Provost Montoya: We have gotten very positive response about the STEM inventory Dr. Belmont put together. Those who have seen it are impressed with all the initiatives we are spearheading focused on life sciences and STEM in the region. In terms of the STEM-focused Undergraduate Student Regional Conference discussed during our subcommittee conference call, it will highlight undergraduate research that is taking place in our respective institutions. We discussed the possibility of merging with existing similar events. We want a conference that is comprehensive where all institutions and colleges can participate so we can show what is happening at the undergraduate level within the universities and colleges. We are drafting a couple of proposals but we are open to suggestions and we want to volunteer and help with the process, but we are willing to collaborate too.

Dr. Belmont: January 26th, 2013 will be MDC Science Fair and then there is an internal MDC College conference in September of 2013.

Provost Montoya: We were proposing to make those two conferences more comprehensive. If we want to take advantage of an existing conference we can simply expand on it.

President Saunders: If you are willing to do this we will tell our students and it would be a great opportunities for our students to participate too. I can pass this on to the appropriate people at Florida Atlantic University and they will contact you about logistics of informing our students of this opportunity.

Provost Montoya: Exactly, we should do a lot of publicity for this. The question is how can we promote what we are doing even more to make people aware and excited about our initiative.

President Saunders: I agree. We will get names to you (Montoya).

Dr. Becerra-Fernandez: Perhaps we should have a STEM-focused Undergraduate Student Regional Conference Program Committee. The committee can lead in determining and coordinating who will be the students displaying their research and how many students per institutions and so forth? Charles Bigger can be the FIU representative who refers students and helps with logistics.

Provost Montoya to Dr. Belmont: Do you have a contact who can be the representative?

Dr. Belmont: When we first talked about this we thought it might be good to piggy back off of an existing conference, but then we determined that a stand-alone conference can be even more valuable.



Dr. Becerra-Fernandez: Every institution can list a person to serve on the program committee and we can have a list and then every year we can pick a program chair and we can all have a chance to showcase our institutions.

President Saunders: Perhaps the stand alone would be a supplementary event.

President Rosenberg: When would the stand alone happen?

Provost Montoya: Spring 2013 would be great so we can start moving.

President Swindell: We hold a similar event, Enterprise Development Corporation (EDC) of South Florida annual conference, and area universities and private companies have the opportunity to present on technology that is being developed within the fields of BioMedical Engineering, Medical Imaging, Translational Neurosciences and Neuroengineering. Our conference happens in May.

President Rosenberg: Provost Montoya, perhaps we can piggy back off of your conference and then have a stand-alone in April.

Dr. Becerra-Fernandez: Provost Montoya, if you commit to host the first student conference than I can gather the contact information for representatives from all the member institution and send that information to you.

LSSF Executive Committee members can also send STEM-focused Undergraduate Student Regional Conference program committee members' contact information to Dr. Belmont via email at: hbelmont@mdc.edu

D. Talent Recruitment Subcommittee – update by Dr. Becerra-Fernandez

Dr. Becerra-Fernandez: In my conference call with Douglas Saenz of the Workforce Alliance of Palm Beach County we discussed the possibility of creating regional internship opportunities, becoming part of the Emerging Leaders Network, which is spearheaded by Scripps, and how to create On the Job Training opportunities (OJT). The Emerging Leaders Network's purpose is to retain students' talents in South Florida and introduce talent to industries. STEM students and emerging new professional get to interact with industry professionals. Douglas Saenz will be getting back to me with additional information; specifically he will provide the contact information for whom to connect with at South Florida Workforce regarding regional student internships.

Post conference call update: Douglas Saenz got in contact with Dr. Becerra-Fernandez and provided the contact information for Ms. Cheri Kavehersi, Business Services Manager at South Florida Workforce. Dr. Becerra-Fernandez will schedule a call with her to discuss regional internships.

E. Regional Conference and Webinars – update by Dr. Becerra-Fernandez

Dr. Becerra-Fernandez: We had 20 attendees in last webinar, on Sept. 18th featuring Dr. Claudia Zylberberg, CEO of Akron Biotech. However, we all should do a little more to improve attendee numbers. We created flyers and distributed them via FIU Facebook, Engagement Facebook, to Medical and Engineering student organization, to Biomedical Engineering Graduate and Undergraduate program directors and advisors at FIU, all Deans at FIU, and LSSF member Deans for distribution to their colleges, colleagues, and students. It is critical that all Regional Conference and Webinar subcommittee members and LSSF Executive Committee members make a stronger effort of promoting these webinars in their corresponding institutions and to all the contacts they think may be interested in tuning in to these events. Attendance is very important because we want to reach as many people as possible and

enable people to take advantage of a resource we offer monthly. We did record the last webinar and will post on our website.

IV. Ending Remarks

President Rosenberg thanked all attendees for their valuable input and time. He also announced that unfortunately Ivan Baines will not be able to remain at LSSF committee member due to his relocation to Germany. He concluded by stating that the next LSSF conversation will be on Nov. 27th at UM Life Sciences and Technology Park.

Call ended at 11:56am.

Action Items:

1. Dr. Margules will:
 - a. Put together an outline of intermediate solutions for the Shared Communication Portal, since building a Portal would take extended time and resources, and then forward to Dr. Becerra-Fernandez for distribution.
2. Mr. Duffell will provide a timetable for the completion of the Asset Map and Cluster Analysis.
3. Dr. Becerra-Fernandez will:
 - a. Post the webinar link on the Life Sciences South Florida website.
 - b. Email the MedUTech documents to LSSF Executive Committee.
 - c. Post the DRESDEN Concept PowerPoint by Dr. Matthias Fichtner on the LSSF website.
 - d. Email all STEM Student Conference Program Committee member contact information from member institutions to Dr. Belmont.
 - e. Email Charles Bigger to be FIU representative for the STEM-focused Undergraduate Student Regional Conference Program Committee.
 - f. Communicate with Ms. Cheri Kavehersi to discuss the creation of regional internship opportunities and provide an update to the LSSF committee.
 - g. Distribute outline created by Dr. Margules on intermediate solutions for the Shared Communication Portal.
4. Provost Montoya and Dr. Belmont, as the Chairs of the first conference, will lead the efforts on the first STEM-focused Undergraduate Student Regional Conference, which will merge with an already existing conference.
5. All members will:
 - a. Make a stronger effort to promote the LSSF Webinars, especially Regional Conference and Webinars subcommittee members
 - b. Refer potential webinar speakers.
 - c. Report whether their respective institutions conduct any student research conferences similar to our proposed STEM-focused Undergraduate Student Regional Conference.
 - d. Provide the names of contacts from their respective institutions to serve on the STEM-focused Undergraduate Student Regional Conference program committee.
 - e. Send STEM-focused Undergraduate Student Regional Conference program committee members' contact information to Dr. Heather Belmont via email at: hbelmont@mdc.edu

