

SAMEC Advisory Board Minutes
Tuesday, October 17, 2006, 4:00-5:00 pm
Marshall Bldg. Room 530

Present: Mary Bouley, Gail Burd, Deanna Fife, Tom Fleming, Stacey Forsyth, Bruce Johnson, Selina Johnson, Jim Knight, John Madden, Katrina Mangin, Ingrid Novodvorsky, Stephen Pompea and Suzanne Westbrook.

SAMEC Director, Dr. Katrina Mangin, called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm.

The agenda was distributed along with a copy of a memo sent to the SAMEC External Review Committee on October 5, 2006, in response to the SAMEC Self-Study. Copies of the minutes from the last board meeting on February 16, 2006 were also available.

All present introduced themselves.

Director Katrina Mangin presented an overview of the major projects that SAMEC has worked on in the past year, listed on the agenda. Selina pointed out that *Expanding Your Horizons Conference* was missing from the list.

Discussion ensued on the pros and cons of SAMEC continuing to pursue dual enrollment credit at the UA for high school courses.

Katrina asked for input on a SAMEC initiative to create a way for high school students to earn UA credit for high school course work done at Tucson High Magnet School for research done in UA science labs under the supervision of UA faculty. The high school course already exists at THMS and is taught by Margaret Wilch. The goal is to create an alternative to AP credit that is more reflective of the process of science and equally or more academically rigorous. SAMEC has presented the idea of UA credit for the high school course to the UA undergraduate council on two different occasions. The council is reluctant to gain approval without the support of the Arizona Board of Regents and without more clarification on the impact on undergraduate education and the details of the administration of such a “dual enrollment” course.

Gail Burd said that she thought a better route would be to offer the high school students the option of enrolling at the UA and earning UA “independent study” (course #199) credit under the supervision of individual faculty. She commented that community colleges already offered dual enrollment options for high school, and that the UA College of Science cannot accommodate many high school students in UA labs, particularly at the cost of spaces for our undergraduate students interested in research opportunities.

Mary Bouley, Tucson Gear Up Project school liaison, and a visitor at the board meeting, mentioned that many high school students, parents and teachers would be very interested in an AP alternative to earning college credit that improved upon AP curriculum. She also mentioned the need for programs in science and math for the Gear Up cohort of students currently in 7th grade.

Stephen Pompea (NOAO) said that he has a ready-made program called *Hands-on-Optics* that needs funding to run but that already has trained staff, K-12 teachers and well-crafted and tested curriculum.

Katrina Mangin announced two upcoming events:

- 1) The COS evening lecture series on Global Climate Change and the availability of certificates for K-12 teachers at the lectures for teacher professional development;
- 2) An open house at Tucson High Magnet School for faculty and teachers interested in UA collaborations at Tucson High and to showcase two such programs, *BLAST* and *SANITY*.

Katrina opened the meeting for a general discussion.

The next SAMEC Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2007, Marshall, Room 530.