TASK FORCE FINDINGS, SECOND FOLLOW-UP REPORT:
ASSOCIATE OF AQUACULTURE PROGRAM REVIEW
Spring 2010

HILLSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE,
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

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I. TASK FORCE FINDINGS (As reported in Program Review 2009)

“The President does not approve recommendation 2. B. It is deleted from the listing below. Recommendation 2. A now appears as recommendation #2. Modifications are made to recommendations #2 and 5 as indicated in **bold and italics**. All remaining recommendations are accepted as presented by the task force.”

-FIRST FOLLOW-UP REPORT: A RECORD OF PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL TO TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR The Associate of Aquaculture Degree, 9/25/09

C. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

1. A. Develop structural, policies, procedures, and assessment strategies to ensure that students are coded correctly for their program, thereby increasing enrollment rates by correcting program coding errors and increasing recruiting efforts for future Aquaculture students.

B. Build a Faculty partnership with Student Services in concert with the steps that have already been taken to improve data accuracy with program coding practices (As seen in the Oct. 2007-3 Research and Analysis Report), including major restrictions and more aggressive program coding follow-up with students during registration process.

2. A. Recommendation 2. Explore ways in which SouthShore can assist in reducing the current commuting burden for students between the Ruskin lab and physical classes (reducing time/money spent traveling to complete the program).

B. "Colleges have to be thoughtful stewards of our planet's natural resources," stated Dr. Gwendolyn Stephenson. Housing the Aquaculture program on the Southshore campus will provide an environmentally conscience partnership between the first LEED Gold certified campus and a zero-exchange Aquaculture program that mandates green fisheries management techniques.

Source: [http://www2.tbo.com/content/2008/may/14/me-a-better-learning-environment/](http://www2.tbo.com/content/2008/may/14/me-a-better-learning-environment/)

3. Develop curricular course offerings specifically focused on the current practice of Recirculation science and green fisheries techniques.
4. A. Investigate the demand and need for the certificate program as relates to the current A.S. program.

B. Determine how many of the current Aquaculture students meet the requirements to graduate with a CCC and push these graduations through. This will provide the Aquaculture program with correct data regarding graduation rates and program coding.

5. Investigate an articulation agreement between HCC/UF, HCC/USF, HCC/FIT and institutions in the Florida College System offering the baccalaureate degree whereby students could transfer seamlessly into a Bachelor program (or 2+2) in fisheries science, management or biology. (Without having to take an extra semester of courses).

6. A. Heavily schedule recruitment activity days at area high schools with a larger minority population.

B. Explore the possibilities of starting a scholarship targeted toward underrepresented students interested in graduating with an AS in Aquaculture. This will help to facilitate a feeder pipeline for the Aquaculture program with local high schools such as East Bay and Leonard High.

7. A. Increase number of articulation agreements with fish farms and science labs in the Hillsborough county area to provide students with internship opportunities while in the HCC Aquaculture program.

B. Develop a lecture series as part of the curriculum, where experts within the Aquaculture field will teach a certain number of classes per semester.

8. A. Develop “Hook Your Future” Aquaculture flyers (pamphlets) with a “fast facts” breakdown. Include information that compels students toward the Aquaculture industry, such as: Total cost of program, internship opportunities, salary information, and 100% placement rates from HCC. Distribute at various high schools within Hillsborough County and at all HCC campuses.

B. Increase visibility of the Aquaculture program utilizing mixed media including various social networking sites (i.e. YouTube and Facebook) as well as the HCC school newspaper.

C. The aforementioned advertisement strategies are designed to increase enrollment within the Aquaculture program. They will include information regarding the various 4-year degreed programs that an AS graduate can easily transfer into (within the state of Florida).
II. REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN ON PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

1. A. Develop structural, policies, procedures, and assessment strategies to ensure that students are coded correctly for their program, thereby increasing enrollment rates by correcting program coding errors and increasing recruiting efforts for future Aquaculture students.

   Student program codes have been thereby increasing enrollment rates by correcting program coding errors and increasing recruiting efforts for future Aquaculture students.

B. Build a Faculty partnership with Student Services in concert with the steps that have already been taken to improve data accuracy with program coding practices (As seen in the Oct. 2007-3 Research and Analysis Report), including major restrictions and more aggressive program coding follow-up with students during registration process.

   The Aquaculture Program Manager and Dean of A.S. Programs at Brandon have applied major restrictions and more aggressive program coding follow up with students. All students are coded in their correct programs.

2. A. Recommendation 2. Explore ways in which SouthShore can assist in reducing the current commuting burden for students between the Ruskin lab and physical classes (reducing time/money spent traveling to complete the program).

   The President of the SouthShore campus has offered whatever assistance he is able to accommodate the need for resources at that campus. Presently, students are still commuting from Brandon. Block classes were established in the Spring semester of 2010, effectively increasing class time by 100%, but reducing class days per week by 50%. This provides the same contact time for students, and reduces driving needs by 50%.

3. Develop curricular course offerings specifically focused on the current practice of Recirculation science and green fisheries techniques.

   Recirculation technology information and course material will be continually increased in existing courses as space, resources and time allows, however, the option of a new course being developed in this area remains under consideration and will likely need to be reconsidered at a later date.
4. A. Investigate the demand and need for the certificate program as relates to the current A.S. program.

   *This recommendation is being presently evaluated.*

   B. Determine how many of the current Aquaculture students meet the requirements to graduate with a CCC and push these graduations through. This will provide the Aquaculture program with correct data regarding graduation rates and program coding.

   *This recommendation is being implemented.*

5. Investigate an articulation agreement between HCC/UF, HCC/USF, HCC/FIT and institutions in the Florida College System offering the baccalaureate degree whereby students could transfer seamlessly into a Bachelor program (or 2+2) in fisheries science, management or biology. (Without having to take an extra semester of courses).

   *A data set is being generated to support this issue. Currently, private, four-year institutions seem to accept credits for transfer more readily than State institutions.*

6. A. Heavily schedule recruitment activity days at area high schools with a larger minority population.

   *Increased activity on scheduled and non-scheduled recruitment days has already taken place. Aquaculture students are also participating by attending local high schools to share their experiences with the Aquaculture Program at HCC. Outreach efforts continue to be made to all demographics with a focus on minorities.*

   B. Explore the possibilities of starting a scholarship targeted toward underrepresented students interested in graduating with an AS in Aquaculture. This will help to facilitate a feeder pipeline for the Aquaculture program with local high schools such as East Bay and Leonard High.

   *Discussions on this matter are still underway.*
7. A. Increase number of articulation agreements with fish farms and science labs in the Hillsborough county area to provide students with internship opportunities while in the HCC Aquaculture program.

   Articulation agreements continue to increase (several this semester). Website updates to this are also underway so that program information will be relevant to the public.

B. Develop a lecture series as part of the curriculum, where experts within the Aquaculture field will teach a certain number of classes per semester.

   This recommendation has been implemented at the Aquaculture Club level this spring will good results. We will be implementing a more formal series of speakers in the Fall of 2010 as a Brandon Campus Science Lecture Series.

8. A. Develop “Hook Your Future” Aquaculture flyers (pamphlets) with a “fast facts” breakdown. Include information that compels students toward the Aquaculture industry, such as: Total cost of program, internship opportunities, salary information, and 100% placement rates from HCC. Distribute at various high schools within Hillsborough County and at all HCC campuses.

   Preliminary pamphlets are under development with current photos. This will also be implemented this summer and fall. Data is still being analyzed concerning accurate salary information for new graduates, etc.

B. Increase visibility of the Aquaculture program utilizing mixed media including various social networking sites (i.e. YouTube and Facebook) as well as the HCC school newspaper.

   Several Facebook pages have been created by students to showcase HCC aquaculture. They have been moderately used, but require updating. Website material is being renewed as time permits. New ideas of obtaining a web domain for enhanced website development are being considered and priced.