



**Rio Hondo College Biotech  
Program Advisory Committee Meeting  
March 17, 2023  
Minutes**



**Members Present:** Robert Bethel, Vann Priest, Kevin Rodriguez, Nathan McCusker, Paul Webster, Howard Xu, Melissa Chandra, Vanessa Shoemaker, Jay Ribaya

**Welcome:** Meeting called at order at 9:03 a.m.

**Minutes from March 4, 2022:** No edits were suggested. Motion to Approve – Paul Webster, Second – Nathan McCusker; motion passes unanimously.

**Current Status Program Updates:** Vann and Robert gave updates on the curriculum and showed the catalog descriptions of the existing courses. Robert shared the current enrollment data showing the program is growing in popularity.

Vann reported that the brewery building is on hold. However, the green houses have been demolished and contracts are in place for the foundation and plumbing work. He stated that the new facilities director put a hold on the project. Status is now undetermined. Robert reported that he will also be requisitioning for an Electric 1-Barrel Brewhouse.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** Robert introduced his new plan to create a Certificate of Achievement in Biotechnology for Brewing Technology. This certificate of achievement is designed to prepare students with the specialized knowledge necessary for employment within the brewing and craft beer industries. In addition, students who earn this certificate are well-prepared to pass the first level of Cicerone© certification—a valuable accomplishment, and often a requirement for employment, in all phases of the brewing and craft beer industries. This certificate will aid students to be employed in field of brewing and creation of craft beers.

Vann made a motion to approve the creation of a certificate of Achievement in Biotechnology for Brewing Technology.

Motion to accept the certificate – Nathan McCusker, Second – Melissa Chandra, no questions or concerns were presented, motion passes unanimously.

**Industry reports:** Nathan McCusker of Angry Horse Brewery gave a short presentation on the health of the brewing industry in Southern California. While many breweries and pubs are going well, the pandemic hit hard forcing several businesses to close.

**Next meeting:** A poll will be sent out to ask for the members' availability.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.