



HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

MINUTES ADVISORY COMMITTEE VIA ZOOM DUE TO COVID-19

Date of Meeting: April 21, 2020

Members present:

Biszewski-Eber, Susan- Apprenticeship Coordinator
Castle, Marcia- Administrative Specialist, Health Information Technology
Fonzo, Denise- Industry Chair/ Adjunct, Health Information Technology
Miller, Lucelly- University of North Carolina
Myrick, Melissa- BayCare Health Systems
Newberry, Sheila- Faculty, Health Information Technology
Russell, Keeva- Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Sabree, Kengia- Academic Chair, Health Information Technology
Thompson, Tonia- Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Wilusz, Lisa- BayCare Health Systems

Members excused:

Michelle Harahan- Senior Care Group

Others present:

Pecchio, Kristin- Career and Academic Advisor for Health Information Technology
Roberts, Monica- Career Outreach Specialist

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am.

Previous Minutes Approved: The minutes from the November 21, 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Motion by: Denise Fonzo

Second by: Susan Biszewski- Eber

Unfinished Business:

Career Source information was never received to be disseminated.

Exam Preparation Workshops- COVID-19 forced us to move scheduled in-person workshops online. The workshops scheduled for May were cancelled and we will resume online in July. Students testing before July will be routed to FHIMA's exam prep course. Kengia mentioned the suggestion made by the workshops facilitators to assign pre-work and allow the workshops to be self-paced. Susan and Denise suggested using zoom and the breakout rooms feature. Kengia will share this with the facilitators and suggest that students are still allowed breaks and lunches during the virtual sessions.

Program Updates:

Admissions- No Summer acceptance due to upcoming program changes, however we will be accepting students in the Fall. Fall registration opens next week.

Accreditation- Annual APAR accepted and approved. Self-assessment for continued accreditation is still due by June 30th.

Current Students- HIT-AS-121, MED CD-81, and HCINF-10.

Graduates- No graduates YTD. Graduation ceremony has been postponed. 18 pending graduates

contingent upon earning their PPE hours. Kengia explained COVID ended most experiences, and to prevent from burdening site supervisors, assignments were created to help students earn virtual hours. Melissa asked for an update on all students placed at BayCare sites to help ensure that they earn enough hours to graduate.

Pass Rates-The 2019 pass rate for the RHIT exam was 72%, down from 82% in 2018. The National pass rate is 76%. The program has 25 first time test-takers (18P/7F) and 6 repeat test-takers (5P/1F).

Subcommittee Reports: None.

Student Update: None. The student position is vacant until 7/1.

New Business: This meeting served as a check-in to ensure that members were healthy, and to discuss how the pandemic is impacting the industry.

Industry Updates & Discussion:

Kengia explained wanting to have this discussion to better understand how the pandemic is impacting the industry and how this will affect new graduates. Sarasota mentioned having to reduce hours and lay off individuals. BayCare mentioned reduced hours to prevent from having to lay individuals off. Both organizations are experiencing a hiring freeze and are longer using contract coding. Melissa mentioned that it may take hospitals at least a year to recover from this. Her advice to HIM students would be to go into Nursing. It was then discussed that students should learn clinical skills during this transition. Some suggestions were becoming a pharmacy technician or certified medical assistant.

Plans for next meeting:

Last year, we had an optional summer meeting/working session. Due to the current state of affairs, the committee will vote using a poll to decide if we should we meet in Summer. If majority votes no, we will meet again in the Fall.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by 8:46 am.

Secretary