



**MINUTES
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT
PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING VIA ZOOM**

Date of Meeting:	May 19, 2021; 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Members Present:	Kory Thomas, Mary Ellen Barkman, Maryellen Sullivan, Camden Russell, Joseph Jackson, Lindsay Largent, Mary Hanlon, Kirsten Snellenburg, Barb Heier, Rey Candolea, Marcey Wright, Debra Fox, Marlon Alaan, Norman Schlact, and Teresa Chiavacci
Members Excused:	Deanna Stentiford, Cathey Garvey, Don Keller, Sue Barber
Others Present:	N/A
Call to Order:	Mary Hanlon called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. The members introduced themselves.
Program Updates:	<p><u>Acute Care Integration into Curriculum</u> Mary Hanlon and Marcey Wright explained how the acute care and safety aspects of lines and tubes have been integrated into the lab practical exams. The items that were integrated into the lab assessments include catheter lines, IV lines, pulse oximeters, and monitors.</p> <p>Mary Hanlon announced that she will retire at the end of this year.</p> <p><u>Clinical Education</u></p> <p><i>a. Current Clinical Sites for 2021-22 AY</i> Freshmen are currently out on their PHT1801L clinical affiliations. Lindsay Largent stated that one more site is needed for the second session of summer clinical rotations for this year. Lindsay Largent asked the committee to please send any recommended sites to her via email.</p> <p>Norman Schlact asked if any facilities are requiring students to be vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine. Lindsay Largent responded no, as of right now.</p> <p><i>b. Committee Discussion – Clinical Site Availability</i> Barb Heier provided information about local sites and orthopedic groups who could be possible contacts for clinical rotations. Teresa Chiavacci offered suggestions for her facility to take a student this summer.</p> <p><i>c. Committee’s Recommendations for Observation Hours</i> Kory Thomas reviewed how the prospective students obtained observation hours last year. This year, if students are unable to complete the observation hours due to COVID-19, videos demonstrating clinical treatments may be provided for the students to use as their observation. A final decision regarding this option will be made later this summer.</p> <p>Barb Heier advised that she will contact Danuta at Morton Plant Hospital to see if the hospital is offering observation experiences.</p>

Admissions Process

Kory Thomas stated there is a similar number of applicants for the Fall 2021 cohort and that admissions will be conducted in the same manner as last year. Prospective students will submit a video in lieu of an in-person interview. The interview process will include an essay portion; however, the specific procedure regarding submission and timeframe have not been determined at this time.

Joseph Jackson stated that the interview process last year was different but nice as it assisted in removing “pressure” from students. Camden Russell stated that, as someone who has gone through the in-person interview, he believes the recorded interviews are much less intimidating.

Student Update:

Student Outcomes

The student graduation rate for the 2020 graduates was 82.35%. The licensure pass rate on the first attempt was 96.2% and 100% on the ultimate attempt. The Program is still gathering employment data for the 2020 cohort at this time.

Modifications Due to COVID

Modifications needed to be made for clinical and classroom experiences due to COVID-19. Last summer, the students had a virtual clinical experience, and lecture classes over the past academic year have been taught via the “Live Online Zoom” modality. Lab courses have continued to be conducted face-to-face.

Mary Ellen Barkman stated that the last two students who attended clinical rotations in the school system were excellent and professional.

Kory Thomas explained that students received and donned the proper PPE while in the lab courses, and precautions were taken to limit exposure to the virus. The graduating cohort of 2021 was able to attend their final clinical experiences in local clinical facilities.

SPC has created an action plan to gradually bring employees and students back to campus full-time. The goal is for employees and students to attend classes face-to-face in the fall; however, decisions have not been finalized at this time. These guidelines from administration are based upon the current CDC guidelines.

New Business:

Journal Club

Kirsten Snellenburg stated she wanted to create an engaging activity for the students to be involved in during the pandemic; Journal Club. Mary Ellen Barkman stated communicating with other students assists with learning evidence-based practice. Camden Russell stated he recognized the importance due to learning about current physical therapy trends and research. It was mentioned that the committee members are invited to join the club this fall.

Promotion of 2:1 Clinical Model

Mary Ellen Barkman stated she really values the 2:1 model due to students being able to learn from each other. Lindsay Largent stated she plans to speak with Nova Southeastern and University of South Florida to inquire if they are interested in collaboration. The committee’s discussion included the importance of facilitating the PT and PTA relationship among students. The committee members agreed that this idea is

worth investigating, with Lindsay Largent stating she would disseminate information as she is able. Rey Candolea stated the challenge with a 2:1 ratio is having enough time to interact with the PT for their education requirements while also working with a PTA on their specific requirements. The 2:1 ratio also has the benefit of students learning from each other. Mary Ellen Barkman mentioned that with her experience, it is actually not more work to have a 2:1 ratio like some may think. It provides an opportunity for dialogue and interaction between CIs and students. The agreed caveat among members is that it is important to recognize where students are in a program and at what level they are to perform.

Welcome Video for Incoming Students

Kory Thomas mentioned it would be nice to have a welcome video for the students so they are able to recognize and connect with the advisory committee members as professionals. Marlon Alaan mentioned he would like to be included in the welcome video. Alex Kerekes suggested having the pictures and biographies of various advisory committee members on display for students to read and recognize. Students could then have the opportunity to reach out to committee members for advice on clinical items, ethics, treatments, and career opportunities. Kirsten Snellenburg and Kory Thomas added that it would be good to have the students obtain the committee members' contact information from a faculty member when desired, as well as establish a procedure for making sure the students are not submitting complaints that need to be addressed by the faculty to the committee members.

Industry Updates & Discussion:

The committee members asked if Dry Needling is covered in our program. Kory Thomas stated that it is not currently included in our PTA program curriculum.

Adjournment: Adjourned at 9:00 pm.