

St Petersburg College
Veterinary Technology Program
Advisory Committee Meeting
March 25, 2021, 7 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

Attending: Laurie Rankin, Kimberly Leshko, Dr. Allison Sateren, Stacey Wider, Kelsey Karp, Cynthia Grey, Trish Gorham; Christopher Kerr, Rhonda Valdez

Absent: Dr. Stacey Huber, Adam Holder, Dr. Greg Masters, Tosha Zimmerman, Sheri Holloway, Emily Scarborough, Dr. David Landers; Dr. Barbara Lewis

Welcome/Introductions

Old Business

Reviewed and Approved September 23, 2020 minutes – Moved to approve was made by Stacey Wider and seconded by Dr. Allison Sateren.

New Business

- Dr. Grey provided a summary of:
 - Fall and Spring Semester Update – Successful completion of Fall semester. Spring semester going well. Campus students, even under COVID restrictions, seem to be keeping a positive attitude. Students facing sever challenges are our online students in arranging during the pandemic places to complete AVMA skills assignments such as the necropsy. Faculty is offering campus-based opportunities to complete skills like large animal. Trish shared that she had just completed a large animal farm visit with online students who drove and flew in to be able to have these skills completed. Faculty continue to work to offer students the opportunity to complete these skills if they are able to come to us. Fall and Spring enrollment numbers were basically flat.
 - The expectation is that for Fall 2021 SPC campuses will be back to 100% following the requirement of wearing masks. Currently, this and maintaining having the students complete the COVID check before coming to campuses will continue. It was also shared that all plans are prefaced by ‘but be prepared to change to online should the pandemic situation worsen.’
 - Graduation for Spring will be offered virtually as it was in the Fall. You might find this fact sheet of interest from SPC’s Fall graduation - <file:///C:/Users/GREY~1.CYN/AppData/Local/Temp/Grad-infographics-Fall2020.pdf>

You also might enjoy taking a quick look at how the virtual graduation went for Fall 2020. The event was very professionally done and well attended -

<https://www.spcollege.edu/current-students/student-affairs/academic-resources/graduation/graduation-celebration>

- Students will be offered the same opportunity to 'walk' in the virtual graduation for the Spring. They will also be offered the opportunity to do an in-person grad walk at various campuses. For further details - <https://www.spcollege.edu/current-students/student-affairs/academic-resources/graduation/grad-walk>. Students will be able to have 4 others in attendance with them. We are looking into student interest in completing the grad walk as a blocked vet tech time and then followed by their pinning ceremony.
- We 'tested the waters' on a virtual Job Fair on March 24th. The event went well with great information and contacts for job opportunities. However, student attendance was low. Our hopes are to offer this opportunity again and see if by changing the time to later in the evening that more students will attend.
- BAS Update: Enrollment for BAS for the Spring semester was up by 11%. There seems to be an increase in enrollment in our Practice Management Certificate. We support VHMA, the credentialing body for the CVPM credential in offering classes that incorporate materials and content that prepare students to sit for the CVPM exam.

The new Communication and Professionalism class is completed and will be taught as an independent study class for the summer with a few students and be offered full for the Fall 2021 semester. The new Capstone Practicum class continues to be receiving positive feedback from students with excellent end of class reviews, even during the pandemic. Several students report career advancement offers after completion of their practicum.

- Trish Gorham provided a review of:
 - Provided an over view of new equipment and facilities. The two facilities projects that we hope to have completed by the end of the summer are the repair/renovation of the dog yard and the updating of medical lighting in the surgical suite and Rm 166. This includes adding playground equipment for the enrichment of our dogs. We are getting an updated Syndaver dog, new IDEXX machine, have added new TV displays in the treatment/surgical areas, Cardell monitors, and purchased goat stands for one of our farm partners. We also received Perkins funding to replace our old dog beds.
 - Results of our AS students' graduation survey. This included a discussion of students who identified they were employed or not employed and looking. Approximately 87% of the responding graduates identified that they would be staying in the practice they were currently at. Three students identified that they were looking for new places of employment and 1 student is not looking for employment in the field. This 1 student is

known to the department. She had retired from her previous profession and her desire was to complete the degree but not to return to employment. (Survey is attached)

- VTNE Scores – Reviewed results. Some additional data provided was how students perceived they were prepared by us for each domain of the test. Although in some domains the perception was low, the test results reflected that they were well prepared. Moving forward, the challenge is how better address these student perceptions. (Please see attached)
- Revisions created (8/2020) to AAVSB Practice Act Model (PAM) for Jurisdictions regulating Veterinary Technicians and Veterinary Technologists as developed by the AAVSB Regulatory Policy Task Force to develop Model Regulations addressing pressing issues in the regulation of Veterinary Medicine. (Please see attached associated documents)
- Program Milestones – Reviewed both AS and BAS milestones. The results reflected a positive impact on these targeted areas. (Please see attached)
- The study abroad trip to Africa has been postponed until May 2022.
- There was a discussion about how the board might help with recommendations on how we might increase our enrollment. This can be due to COVID but is also due to the increase in the number of programs. We also discussed that some corporate practices that are offering education incentives for their staff are utilizing a for-profit program that affords the corporation a significantly reduced fee schedule, one that SPC cannot compete with because we do not have the ability to adjust our fees.
- Discussed the shift in our student makeup and the difficulty in students coming unprepared for class. This was supported by Kim Leshko our student representative who shared a recent class experience where she questioned if students actually read the materials. This is a growing concern departmentally.

Thanks to everyone for their support and feedback! If you have any suggestions, ideas, etc. that will help our programs grow before our next meeting please feel free to email me at Grey.Cynthia@spcollege.edu or give me a call at 727 302 6724