

St Petersburg College
Veterinary Technology Program
Advisory Committee Meeting
October 5, 2021, 6:30 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

Attending: Laurie Rankin, Kimberly Leshko, Dr. Allison Sateren, Stacey Wider, Kelsey Karp, Cynthia Grey, Trish Gorham, Rhonda Valdez, Dr. Stacey Huber, Tosha Zimmerman, Dr. David Landers; Dr. Barbara Lewis, Sheri Holloway.

Absent: Jane Hamblin, Adam Holder, Dr. Greg Masters, Emily Scarborough,

Welcome

Old Business

Reviewed and Approved March 5, 2020 minutes – Moved to approve was made by Dr. Kim Donovan and seconded by Rhonda Valdez with one change. The study abroad trip to Africa is in June 2022, not May of 2022.

New Business

- Dr. Grey provided a summary of:
 - Spring semester going well. Students seem to be feeling the effects of COVID restrictions. More students struggling with mental health issues. Students also seem to have other personal and health related issues outside of COVID that are causing students to withdraw – i.e. student withdrew from 2 classes today because over the summer she was hit by a car and has been struggling emotionally. She was just diagnosed with PTSD. This is a straight A student who really values education, but is struggling not only in school but at work and home.
 - BAS update – Shared the Viability Dashboard for the BAS program. Although enrollment has dropped from 2018, the program success rates increased in 2019 from 79.6 (2018) to 93.2%. In 2020, the success rates dropped to 80.9%.

Enrollment increased for 2019 (96) but dropped again for 2020 to 90. Although COVID is a factor, students also identified that they either did not register or withdrew from classes in 2020 because of:

Forced Overtime

Mental Health issues

Personal or Family Illness

- Trish Gorham provided a review of the AS program:

- New equipment and facilities. New exam and surgery lights to replace the old models that we could no longer obtain parts for. We have received the second Syndaver dog that is on loan until the new version arrives. Addition of educational tool for dentistry, horse wall graphic, to our dog and cat.
- Results of our AS students' graduation survey. (Please see attachment)
- VTNE Scores – Reviewed results. (Please see attachment.)
- Shared the updated AAVSB Veterinary Technicians Regulation Map that provided a list of the status by state of veterinary technician regulation. Although the map reflects that 12 states currently are not regulated (Florida being one of those states), several of those states have just adopted credentialing or are in the process. Montana and Utah recently passed credentialing laws. Advocates in Colorado, Massachusetts and Minnesota are working on legislation. (Please see attachment.)
- HB 1507
 - Please see attached ppt presentation
 - This House Bill impacts the AS programs across the state. It also significantly impacts our SPC program.
 - The Bill addresses needing to identify specific gen ed classes to meet state requirements. We had to make a few changes, but this did not significantly impact us because we already had the credit hours incorporated into the program.
 - The biggest impact is based upon the state identifying that we did not meet 3 of the critical factors for available jobs and pay scale. For the available jobs, this data is not valid. However, we do not know if the state will let us dispute this information. What this means for the program is that the state is refusing to fund those programs who do not meet their criteria.
 - The college has compiled an EMSI report that reflects the available and predicted job needs and how many jobs are posted monthly. It includes other data as well, and is attached. We can support the need but we may not support that our vet techs meet the requirement of mid to high pay scales.
 - As a result of these 'findings' – The college was directed to evaluate these programs to determine if they could continue to be offered without state funding. What the college found was that the AS program is costing \$274 per credit hour. The fees we are allowed to collect per credit, as assigned by the state is \$110.
 - We are asking the boards help in gaining support from officials in Tallahassee for the program and in identifying ways to find financial support for the program.

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