

**ST PETERSBURG COLLEGE  
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**May 17, 2018  
6:30 – 8:00 PM**

**Teresa Chiavacci called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm.**

**Members Present:** Kory Thomas, Kirsten Snellenburg, Debra Fox, Cathy Garvey, Mary Hanlon, Alex Kerekes, Barb Heier, Doug Harwood, Teresa Chiavacci, Marcey Wright, Marlon Alaan, Sue Barber

**Members Absent:** Winston Biltz, Mary Ellen Barkman, Maryellen Sullivan, Norman Schlat, Shamsah Shidi, Tricia Trinqu

**I. INTRODUCTIONS**

All members introduced themselves. Marcey Wright was welcomed since this was her first meeting.

**II. PROGRAM UPDATE**

**a. CAPTE Reaccreditation**

Kory Thomas announced that the CAPTE accreditation visit took place this past November. Kory Thomas also explained how the Response to the CAPTE Visit Report was submitted in January and the faculty members have been addressing any curricular pieces that were identified as missing.

Kirsten Snellenburg added that the CAPTE onsite team interviewed faculty and staff as well as students during the visit. Kirsten Snellenburg added that the CAPTE onsite team was impressed with the facility and staff.

Barb Heier added that the visit included dialogue about what different programs were doing around the country. This was different compared to the previous CAPTE visit that she experienced.

Mary Hanlon stated that this visit was helpful in improving the program and was a new process compared to any other previous CAPTE site visits.

Debra Fox stated that the CAPTE site visit team asked her about a clinical site comment that she had made at the advisory committee meeting, and she was asked to describe the discussions that took place during the advisory committee related to the available clinical sites.

Kory Thomas added that she and the faculty will continue to work with a consultant until the final progress report is submitted and received by CAPTE.

Kory Thomas further explained that due to the transition from the Evaluative Criteria to the new CAPTE Standards, the program is in the process of meeting the current curricular standards. This includes a revision of the lab rubrics.

**b. Outcomes**

Kory Thomas stated that the outcomes for graduation rates, licensure pass rate, and employment rates are posted online. The previous graduation rate (for 2016 and 2017 graduating classes) was 72.25% while the rate was 82.4% for the 2018 graduating class. Kory Thomas did add that she was recently informed that students with personal/family issues who withdraw from a program do not count against graduation rates per CAPTE. The current numbers do not reflect this change.

The (average) licensure pass rate for the past two graduating classes (2016 and 2017) was 98% on the first attempt. The rate was 100% for the ultimate attempt for these two cohorts.

The employment rate for the 2017 graduating class was 100%. All graduates who sought employment 6 months after graduation are employed.

Teresa Chiavacci asked if students are able to come to the College for job resources and Kory Thomas stated that they have job board postings with resources on site. Job openings are also emailed to graduates when they are received by program faculty and staff.

**c. Admissions**

Kory Thomas explained how CAPTE's requirement of a student completing the program in no more than 104 calendar weeks has been addressed by the timeline outlined for our PTA applicants. Kory Thomas further explained that College administration, the Student Services Manager, the program's consultant, and the Program Director came together in 2017 to consider how to implement this requirement. This was solved by allowing students to apply for the program who are taking the prerequisites in the summer semester. Kory Thomas explained that there was difficulty in the timeline as students would need more time to prepare for if they do or do not get into the program. This has been addressed by sending several letters to students at different times throughout the admissions process that indicate whether or not they will be eligible to continue in the process. On June 1st, students will either receive one of the three letters described below:

1. A letter indicating that their application was incomplete.
2. A letter indicating that their GPA is below a 3.5 and cannot progress in the admissions process.
3. A letter indicating that they are progressing forward in the admissions process and will be eligible for an interview.

Kory Thomas added that the interview rubric is currently posted online to inform applicants of the manner in which they will be evaluated during the interview (which includes a writing component). The minimum requirement for the total interview score is 24 points. A letter will be sent to those who do not receive a 24 or higher score explaining that they will not be progressing forward in the admissions process. Students will receive a final letter when the decision is made for acceptance or denial in the program.

Mary Hanlon stated that English instructors are being hired to grade the essays from the interview process. Kory Thomas stated that this is to aid in reducing bias and to provide a credible source for grading.

Teresa Chiavacci asked how many students have applied this year. Alex Kerekes answered that there were 133 applicants that have applied this year as of May 15.

Debra Fox asked about the Earn as You Learn program with Baycare and how it affects admissions. Kory Thomas explained that the Linkage program has been discontinued and that the PTA program no longer has a direct connection with the Earn as You Learn Program. Students interested in the Earn as You Learn Program may apply separately through BayCare. SPC is not informed of which students have applied for the Earn as You Learn Program. No slots are reserved for Earn as You Learn students. Kory Thomas added that if students are unsuccessful in the PTA program, they are no longer automatically slotted back in the program.

**i. Activity for Interviews**

Kory Thomas explained how the activity during the interview is used to elicit different personality traits in people. Kory Thomas explained that it would be good to change the current activity. An activity was proposed and the committee members agreed on its implementation. Alex Kerekes offered specific language that should be used when providing the instructions to the groups.

**III. CLINICAL EDUCATION UPDATE**

**a. Available Sites for 2019**

Kory Thomas explained that we have 15 clinical sites for the January 2019 clinical slot and 31 slots are needed. There are 20 slots for the March 2019 clinical and 31 slots are needed. The program has secured 18 current slots for the 2019 summer clinical and 34 are needed.

Marlon Alaan mentioned that SNFs are very few in number on the clinical list. Kory Thomas stated that some SNFs have yet to return their forms. Kory Thomas added that hospitals tend to be the easiest sites to obtain for the clinical rotations at this time.

Marcey Wright stated that she has a contact at Largo Medical Center, and she will provide their name to Kory Thomas.

Teresa Chiavacci asked if the students are able to utilize their own networking to obtain a clinical placement for themselves. Kory Thomas stated that she informs students that they may request a clinical site; however, she needs approximately 4 months' notice in order to obtain a contract. Kory Thomas also stated that she prefers to complete a site visit before sending a student to a new clinical site that has not been utilized by the program.

**b. Web CPI**

Kory Thomas asked faculty to provide their input about the implementation of the Web CPI. Barb Heier stated that things are smoother now as everyone has learned more about how to use the Web CPI and its content areas. Mary Hanlon stated that she feels that CIs are able to make more detailed comments in the CPI and grade more effectively.

**IV. OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK**

Kory Thomas asked the members for their thoughts regarding the job outlook for PTAs in the local area. Debra Fox stated that she feels that the average salary is around \$52,000 annually. The committee members agreed. Kory Thomas presented a document from the Bureau of Labor Statistics that indicated the average annual salary for PTA across the country was \$57,430. in May 2017.

Kirsten Snellenburg explained the current changes in the Medicare reimbursement methods with regards to a PT and PTA treatments. Alex Kerekes added that these changes are only prospective and would take place in 2022; however, he feels that this final push for reimbursement cuts was to simply meet a standard in Washington D.C. The APTA will be advocating against such reimbursement cuts.

**V. PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE FEEDBACK FORM**

Kory Thomas stated that these forms are used to provide necessary feedback that drives decisions in our program. Kory Thomas also provided to the members the PTA Program Policies and Procedure Manual, the PTA Student Handbook, and the Clinical Instructor's Manual. The Policies and Procedures Manual contains board rules, program policies, and clinical procedures and information.

**a. Textbook Review**

The program's current textbooks were on display for the advisory committee members to review.

**b. Syllabi**

The current syllabi were provided to the committee for their review.

**c. Equipment**

The committee members were offered a tour to view the current equipment in the program. The closet that houses the orthopedics equipment was open for members to tour.

**d. Manuals**

See handbooks that are described above.

**VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No one had any new announcements.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:15pm.

**Minutes Submitted by:** Alex Kerekes

**Minutes Approved by:** Kory Thomas