

**DENTAL HYGIENE ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MINUTES**

**Monday, November 9th, 2020 \* 6:00pm – 7:00pm**

**Zoom Online**

**Members Present**: Steven Hokett, Salmon Creek Periodontics; Kramer Ragan, RDH; Kaili Rutkowski, RDH; Jana Sarkkinen, RDH, Rose Family Dental

**Members Absent**: Melody Scheer, Retired RDH (Committee Chair); Ann Gilbert, University of Washington; Dr. Peter Lubisich, Vancouver Pediatric Dentistry; Dr. Derek Michaud, NW Affinity Dental; Dr. Michael Rue, Minnehaha Family Dentistry; Trisha Simcox, RDH; (Vice Chair);

**Clark College**: Kristi Taylor, Program Director; Clark Instructors: Becky Herman, Michael Ludwig, Amy Johnson Jean Gregory, Summer Gillas, Sheryl Armstrong, Alex Budey; Adjunct Instructors – Richard Grabowsky, DDS,; Brenda Walstead, Dean of BHS; Renee Schiffhauer, Advising; SueAnn McWatters, Program Specialist – Advisory Committees

SueAnn McWatters called the meeting to order at 6:03pm and introductions were made.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of *February 10th, 2020* were presented for approval. As quorum was not present, the minutes were sent out via electronic approval. *As of December 8th, 2020 the minutes have been approved.*

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

The committee will next meet on **Monday, April 26th, 2021 at 6:00pm via Zoom Online.**

**OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Brenda Walstead made the following announcements:

We do have a new president Dr. Karin Edwards.

There are going to be pretty large budget cuts, hopefully we’ll know more by January, but potentially not until the end of the fiscal year. We’ve had some adverse press from a Moss Adams report that came into the college and did an assessment on our systems. It didn’t fall well with staff. There have been some picketers around campus. It was a struggle with Dental Hygiene as no one actually interviewed anyone from the department, so the suggestion was to take all the staff away and to centralize them in the Office of Instruction. This would not work for the accrediting body, which wouldn’t work for the needs of the students, which then the program wouldn’t exist.

She really wants to highlight the faculty/staff in the Dental Hygiene program since COVID has begun since before spring term. They had two weeks to take all of their face to face and turn them into online courses. It is not a small feat. Seniors were not able to graduate the seniors as they were not able to hold clinics. The faculty/staff worked on a schedule for students in the summer that included 12 hour days and clinicals, while also following all the PPEs and safety protocols. Kristi Taylor has done a phenomenal job being on top of everything and making sure that the program has been prepared for all the changes.

The Dental Hygiene faculty do not complain. There service attitude has been amazing and she couldn’t be more thankful for being able to work with them.

Renee Schiffhauer also gave kudos to everyone here that is so adaptable and making the student experience so much easier. No one wanted to be online, but the teamwork and support for the students has been wonderful. She also thanked the community members.

**OLD BUSINESS**

No old business discussion.

Kristi Taylor did speak on looking into partnerships for inter-professional education. That has all been put on pause. There are no extramural sites that want to take on anyone. OHSU is even putting a pause so students may not be able to attend the Russell Street Dental Clinic. Dr. Hockett stated that it is functioning but at a lower capacity.

Washington state is also changing their for HIV education. It has been an 8 hour mandatory HIV education in their training, but that rule will be changed to remove that verbiage out of the requirement for licensure. They felt that calling out HIV specifically was discriminatory when there are so many other blood-borne diseases.

Accreditation has been pushed out to 2025.

**DIRECTOR/DEPARTMENT CHAIR REPORT**

*Faculty Changes*

Summer Gillas and Alex Budey are new to the program this year. There is also a new course in the program. They have had three quarters of special needs. They removed Special Needs III and dispersed it into other classes. They made a new course called Behavior Modification. It is being taught by an HPE faculty member named Veronica Brock who is a health coach. Students will learn a lot of communication skills and how to be affective in changing behavior.

*Changes due to COVID*

Brenda Walstead already spoke a lot about the many changes in the education, hopefully temporary. Kristi Taylor has another report that needs to go out to CODA (Commission on Dental Accreditation) by the end of February for the class of 2021 for any modifications that are being made in their education. They also had to send accreditation report for the class of 2020 and was due back in May. They have allowed the ability for the class of 2021 to have some modifications to their education as well. This includes increase in simulation activities, decreasing requirements, etc.

They have applied for a grant through the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges with Brenda and the college grant writer’s help. They want enough funding to obtain 26 HEPA filters to place around the clinic and common areas to help keep down viruses or anything floating in the air.

Moving into the winter quarter, they haven’t been doing any aerosols. They did a few at the end of summer quarter with the class of 2020 just to allow them some practice with their ultrasonics going into the board exams. Aerosols were put to a halt due to medicating factors needed to be put in place; fit testing for all the N95 masks, filters, and getting the processes and protocols in place when the aerosols come back. We aren’t able to graduate students without having practiced on people.

Dr. Grabowsky mentioned that OHSU offers COVID tests to the students and if they test negative, then they can work. Kristi stated that they considered this, however the college doesn’t have the capability to do that.

Kristi confirmed that they just obtained 1,500 N95 masks for $27. The program is pretty set on masks. The struggle is making sure that they have enough different sizes for all their faces. All of the chairs are already 6 ft. apart and they also have plexiglass separating them.

Children’s Dental Health will not happen this year.

*Student Selection Process*

Kristi Taylor spoke on the proctored essay. They had 51 students who came in for the applicant advising day and all wrote 500 word essays on a specified question. That essay was then sent to 4 reviewers within the department. They were not at applicant advising day nor did they meet them and each applicant was given a unique identifier that did not include their name. Talking with the current juniors, many said they thought it went very well. The process of the proctored essay gave them some opportunity to provide their skills in a different way. It also allowed points for volunteering and points for students who had completed 15 credits or more at Clark. The next challenge will be looking at how to diversify or how to increase the opportunities for diverse population in the application pool.

All the students were able to and passed their board exams. There was a push to move the Dental Hygiene exam into a simulation exam rather than a live station exam. The Dental Hygiene Examining Committee rejected it as there wasn’t enough evidence to support moving in that direction. The dental school for OHSU has moved that direction, Oregon is allowing it, Washington is allowing it for dentistry, but they have rejected it for Dental Hygiene.

**SADHA REPORT**

No student was in attendance for a report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Kristi Taylor explained her viewpoint on how the advisory committee is going. What should advisory committees look like? Brenda Walstead stated that it’d be nice to hear from the hygienists. It’s been wonderful to hear from the doctors, but the hygienists are also out in the field and it’s a tough job. Dr. Hockett’s advice was to get as many hygienists out there because many have quit. Dr. Grabowsky stated that the setup has gone very well.

The committee is looking for a strong chair.

When COVID first came about, dental workers were not on the list of essential workers. A huge effort was put forward to petition as dental workers to be put on the list of essential workers. Because of this effort and push, the program was able to teach dental workers. The program also has to adhere to certain protocols and rules in order to stay in accreditation.

As it stands, this class of 2021 will be fully caught up. The goal is to have the students graduate in June.

The committee members thanked Kristi Taylor for her amazing work.

Meeting adjourned at 7:08pm.

Prepared by SueAnn McWatters