



**HIM - MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, February 21st, 2024, at 5:30 PM**  
**Zoom**

**Members Present:** Sean Moore, Karin LaValla, Merryl Blatnik, April Andrews, Chasity Palacios

**Members Absent:** Emily Strahan, Lori Lucente, Janine Gunn, Virdie Schrei

**Clark College:** Olga Lyubar, Janine Rieck, Elizabeth Flores, Aaron Campbell, Scot Headley

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The meeting began at 5:35 PM.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

Wednesday, May 8th, 2024, at 5:30 PM.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The previous minutes from October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, have been approved.

**COLLEGE UPDATES**

Scot announced that Heidi Fay had been granted tenure.

Scot shared that the College has earned a Title Three grant. There are goals for more technology implementation and funding on the student services side. This grant is intended to help every program on campus infuse career-connecting learning goals into the courses, allowing faculty to form connections in the community.

Scot shared that the search for an interim Vice President of Instruction has failed. Tina Redd has stepped into the interim role. The search will be conducted soon.

**TEXTBOOK UPDATES**

Olga shared that Janine's new proposed textbooks were approved and expected to be implemented in Fall 2024.

- CPT, HIM 232, Medical Coding II.
- Current Procedural Terminology.
- HCPCS Coding for Physicians and Facilities.

**DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

Olga has seen an increase in applicants within the program.

Olga announced that the program had formed a meeting with the APC Chapter and Kaiser to invite previous graduates to discuss their journey in coding on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Sean inquired about graduate work opportunities post-graduation or if anyone is actively looking for employer connections.

Olga stated the program currently experiences challenges with student placements and local facilities accepting interns at this time. Olga will share more updates with the committee in the spring meeting.

Sean requested a list of internships that students applied to so he could contact employers not mentioned.

### **GRADUATION & CURRENT COHORT**

Olga welcomed the industry members to the March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, graduation at 6:00 PM in the PUB Building in the fireside room.

Olga stated she has eight students graduating with the Certificate of Proficiency.

Olga shared student enrollment. There are seventeen students enrolled in the Certificate of Proficiency. Fifteen in the Associates for the upcoming spring cohort. Orientation is taking place next week, and registration will begin next week.

Olga shared that the program will not run an entire cohort in the fall of 2024. The program only has six Certificates of Proficiency and four Associates, and it has not reached the capacity to teach those courses.

### **OUTREACH**

Olga has been working with the HIM Club for outreach events.

Olga mentioned that either she or Christina will attend Vancouver Flex Academy, Skyview High School, Ridgefield High School, Fort Vancouver High School, and Hudson Bay High School.

During these visits, they plan to engage with students through various games and activities.

Olga mentioned that the healthcare camp is happening again this year. All industry members are welcome to join, volunteer, speak, or hold a table.

### **INTERNSHIP UPDATES**

Organizations are unable to accept interns due to department changes, low staffing, or new system implementation. The program requires 120 hours.

Olga shared that the program may reduce internship hours to 60, as AHIMA requires only 40 hours.

Olga shared that PeaceHealth, Providence, and Kaiser stated that 40 internship hours are sufficient.

Others suggest longer internships to assess work ethic and facilitate hiring.

April agreed with the 120 internship hours at Columbia River Mental Health since many hours are spent on training the students on their systems.

Janine suggested 40 hours at the beginning of the program and 40 hours at the end.

Janine mentioned that AHIMA mentioned continuing education units can be available to students until they get accreditation through AHIMA.

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Chasity shared that she completed her internship with PeaceHealth, and it worked well for her. However, it can be difficult with larger organizations with production goals.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 PM

Prepared by Elizabeth Flores