

**PHARMACY TECHNICIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**Tuesday 28th February 2017**

**6:00—8:00 p.m.**

**Meeting Location: CCW, room 124**

**Members Present:** Zach McCall (Vice-Chair), Legacy Good Samaritan Medical Center; Anthony Mauer, PeaceHealth St. John’s Hospital; Brenda Tallent, Legacy Health; Bob Gustainis, Walgreens; Huy Hoang, CVS; Merrie Kay Alzola, Novo Nordisk; Rene Bloemke, Net-RX

**Members Absent:** Derrick Ogawa (Committee Chair), Walgreens

**Clark College:** Dawn Shults, Dept. Head, Pharmacy Tech Department; Heidi Fay, Pharmacy Instructor; Linda Valenzuela, Interim Assoc. Dean of Health Sciences; Cathy Sherick, Assoc. Dir. of Instructional Programming & Innovation; Nichola Farron, Secretary Sr. - Advisory Committees,

Prior to the formal start of the meeting, the committee members were given a tour of the Pharmacy Tech lab (CCW 003) in order to familiarize with the equipment to facilitate a later discussion.

Following the tour, the committee convened in CCW 124; as the Committee Chair was unable to attend, Vice-Chair Zach McCall called the meeting to order at 6.19pm and introductions were made.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

*The minutes of September 27 2016 were presented: Zach proposed they be passed as written. This was seconded by Bob and passed unanimously.*

Next Meeting Date

The committee will meet again on Tuesday May 23rd 2017 at 6.00pm

Office of Instruction Updates

**Transformation in 2017:** Remember the series of **Business and Community Learns** events on campus are set up to be quick and friendly ‘lunch and learn’ opportunities. FREE and open to the public, the workshops will be scheduled from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and held in the Gaiser Student Cente**r**, allowing people to attend on their lunch hour. Food is available in the carts on campus, and guest are welcome to bring their brown bag. Additional information to follow in emails.

* **Friday February 24th Millennials in the Workforce**
* Friday March 24th Pathways
* Friday May 19th The Power of Completion

\*Note: The advocacy training was very worthwhile, but attendance was low due to weather.

The **new Bachelor of Applied Management in Applied Science (BASAM)** is up and running. The first cohort of sixteen students has started the program this term. Please continue to share this opportunity with community members and potential students, your outreach is powerful!

The **Culinary program facility** is now under construction and work is moving at a fast pace to open the program in the fall of 2017. Again, share this opportunity with community members and potential students, your outreach is powerful!

Our **Advisory Committee recognition event** will be held in the Summer to thank all of our volunteers for their work: more information will follow!

ASHP Update

Dawn distributed a press release from the PCTB which can also be found here:

<http://www.ptcb.org/about-ptcb/news-room/news-landing/2017/01/23/ptcb-suspends-implementation-of-accredited-education-requirement-originally-planned-for-2020#.WLcnQ386zKo>

Dawn updated the committee that the proposed implementation of the ASHP accreditation requirement with the PCTB has been suspended. The original plan was that the two bodies would work together to provide the framework for the requirements for national exams. This was an ambitious initiative; it would have required students to have 2 externship locations as opposed to 1. While this is something already undertaken by Clark College, it would have had ramifications for programs that may not have had access to institutional sites. In addition, whilst WA already had higher standards in terms of certification, there would have been wider ramifications in OR where requirements are not as stringent. As such, the planned date of 2020 for implementation of the accreditation will be delayed pending further review and investigation.

Dawn outlined that whilst she is personally disappointed with this development, there is some logic to the decision, especially considering the lack of schools in OR, or the problems rural areas would have with regards to securing externship sites etc. Dawn reiterated that the Department plans - with Committee support - to continue working on ensuring the curriculum and course design would meet the accreditation standards with a target of the original 2020 deadline. As course content was previously aligned with ASHP standards, there are no plans to change this as it represents an opportunity to develop and improve the course content.

René asked whether continuing to work for the accreditation would result in an increase of credits or requirements that might result in a greater financial or time demand on the students. Dawn responded that earlier discussion with the committee had resulted in the alleviation in some of the ‘heavier’ credit requirements. She continued that she would not envision an increase in financial obligation, and the program’s overall eligibility for Financial Aid means students would have support.

Linda continued that Health Sciences as a whole is reviewing credits, with some restructuring to shift some credits into the pre-requisite areas which can assist with financial flexibility. Other options are determining certain credits as ‘recommended’ or ‘pre-program’.

Cathy asked the employers present if graduating from an accredited program made students more hirable, and whether they regard accreditation as valuable.

Bob outlined that PTCB certification is required for technicians, but also for managers and assistant store managers. Walgreens provide classes and in-house technician training, but he stressed that the content level is not as high as students coming from external programs. He continued that the Clark College is the school of choice for hiring because of the quality of technicians graduating from the program

Zach continued that he works with other pharmacy directors who echo the sentiment that Clark College graduates are their preferred hires. In terms of continuing to work to the 2020 ASHP goal, he reiterated that a ‘gold standard’ of work has been set and he supported moving forward with efforts to bring the program in line with the projected accreditation standards.

Dawn shared that there is an intense workload in refining the program. In a presentation of an existing lesson, she demonstrated how the references to accreditation standards are amalgamated into the lesson to illustrate, for example, state regulations or instructional objectives. To keep on track with regards to internal College curriculum processes, there will be materials for the committee to review before November.

Cathy and Linda then spoke of the key role of Advisory Committee support in ensuring content and curriculum changes are passed by the College.

*Merrie Kay made a motion of support to continue working towards future ASHP accreditation. This was seconded by Huy and passed unanimously.*

Equipment Needs

Dawn issued a short survey to the committee members in order to collect their recommendations for equipment purchases, and also any comments regarding the equipment they saw in the lab tour.

The committee discussed the various technological advances in the field: the current Pyxis program used by the department is somewhat dated.

Bob stressed the need for technicians to understand how to avoid chargebacks, and working within Medicare parameters.

Dawn outlined the difficulty of simulating those kind of ‘real world’ scenarios in the lab with the existing software.

René shared that her company works with a provider that could set up scenarios and a phony bin for students to do exercises. Dawn spoke to this being a major enhancement for students.

Action Item: René will investigate the possibility for setting up a system for students to work on exercises with a phony bin, and with scenario simulation potential.

The committee then discussed the various software systems used in industry: it was agreed that there a variety of systems used; but with increasing user-friendliness, the students should be able to adapt to any that they encounter.

Bob reiterated the discussion at the previous meeting about the importance of soft skills, and the growing need to understand cross-generational communication. Linda outlined that this is an area that the College is constantly working on, and in particular, there is an effort to address this with high school

Inter-Professional Healthy Penguin Walkabout Day

The 2nd Healthy Penguin Walkabout is scheduled for June 3 2017, with a hope for warmer weather than last year! The focus will again be the dangers of sugar, with the health and business departments participating. Dawn explained that the Pharmacy Tech focus will be diabetes and diabetic care. Participants will be able to walk the campus and meet the various departments and undertake different health assessments and activities.

Other Business

Merrie Kay announced that, after a long period of service on the Advisory Committee, changes in her work responsibility and schedule mean that she is stepping down. In addition, this will mean that the Department will need to find a replacement Pharmacist to assist with paperwork etc.

The Committee thanked Merrie Kay for her service and commitment to the program over the years.

Dawn invited anyone who would be interested in serving as the contact Pharmacist to connect with her for more information: they would need to be an active member of the Advisory Committee in addition to assisting with administrative requirement.

Bob outlined that is promoting community outreach for Pharmacists at his company as they work on individual improvement plans, and this could be a potential area to find a replacement.

Zach adjourned the meeting 7.37pm

Prepared by Nichola Farron