

**PHARMACY TECHNICIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**Tuesday 7th June, 2016**

**6:00—8:00 p.m.**

**Meeting Location: CCW, room 124**

**Members Present:** Zach McCall, Legacy Good Samaritan Medical Center;

**Guests:** Bob Gustainis, Walgreens; Derrick Ogawa, Walgreens (Bob and Derrick’s committee membership was confirmed at end of meeting)

**Members Absent:** Dennita Rittenback, Propac Pharmacy; Merrie Kay Alzola, Novo Nordisk; Rene Bloemke, Net-RX; Anthony Mauer, PeaceHealth St. John’s Hospital; Brenda Tallent, Legacy Health

**Clark College:** Dawn Shults, Dept. Head, Pharmacy Tech Department; Debra Ortiz, Director of Allied Health; Brenda Walstead, Interim Dean, Business & Health Sciences; Heidi Fay, Pharmacy Instructor; Kira Freed, Health Occupations Educational Planner (Advising); Cathy Sherick, Assoc. Dir. Of Instructional Prog. & Innovation; Nichola Farron, Secretary Sr. - Advisory Committees,

Committee Vice chair Zach McCall called the meeting to order at 6.04pm and introductions were made.

As a quorum was not present, the minutes from the meeting of October 29 2015 will be sent for electronic vote. *As of the 9th June 2016, the Minutes have been approved.*

Office of Instruction Updates

Cathy outlined that the Academic Plan has been completed with a focus on guided pathways to facilitate student completion and success and a foundation of 6 goals. An executive summary of the Academic Plan will be available shortly on the Advisory Committee web pages.

The committee were given a brief demonstration of the Career Coach portal as a tool for students to investigate program and career options.

The Recognition Breakfast was held on April 20: next year’s event will likely be scheduled for a different time of the day following survey input from members.

There are 3 trainings for Advisory Committees in the planning stage for next year: inter-generational issues, legislative advocacy, and a focus on encouraging businesses to support student completion.

The planning and approval of the BASAM (Bachelor of Applied Science and Applied Management) degree has been completed and will offer students the chance to complete a four year program.

In addition the pre-apprenticeship program is about to be launched as a 10-week course to give students entry level skills for trades jobs.

*Bylaws*- the committee members present reviewed the bylaws. It was agreed that the proposed amendments be adopted, and that an additional section defining membership be added. As there was not a quorum present, the final draft will be sent for electronic vote to formalize the changes. *As of June 9th 2016, the Bylaws have been approved and will be adopted.*

Director Report

Debbie Ortiz thanked Bob and Derrick, the two new members from Walgreens, for joining the committee and emphasized the importance of industry representative input to ensure the curriculum remains on track.

With regards to health-E workforce grant, held for 3 years from federal government: one of the components was the integration of different aspects, including health informatics, into the pharmacy and nursing curriculums. Adriana Thomas has worked on that, with her position scheduled to end on September 30th. A positive outcome will be the retention of priority entry for Veterans, and also that collaborative work will continue, especially in partnered work using the Pyxis system.

Debbie then outlined, that as result of College budget changes her position has been eliminated and her last day will be June 16th. There will be new leadership, including the position of Associate Dean of Health Sciences who will work with Nursing, Pharmacy Tech, Phlebotomy etc; an advantage will be that the new role will be based at CCW as opposed to the main campus.

*Enrollment -* Kira provided an update on enrollment numbers: there are 16 students who have fulfilled all preliminary requirements for fall quarter, 10 who are enrolled to qualify in spring quarter, and additional 7 enrolled to qualify for summer classes. Another 27 have active applications, and an additional 2 applications have been received that have not yet been evaluated. As such there is a total of 62 files in progress for the pharmacy technician program.

Debbie reiterated that even though there are a number of students in the pipeline, it is important to continue to publicize the program.

*Program Structure -* Dawn continued with a reminder that a Work Session was held in February as the department continues to work on accreditation with American Society of Health System Pharmacists (ASHP). Due to projected changes in 2020 in national certification, a formal process needs to be gone through and the curriculum assessed with a view to new guidelines

Dawn continued that, at the work session, discussions were had as to how to meet new requirements, including the sequencing of classes and the addition of lab/lecture/ simulation hours. Dawn distributed a summary of proposed curriculum changes (attached to minutes): there has been some movement of classes to free up space. Dawn outlined that Phar 114 is content-heavy and one possibility would be to expand the number of credits or split out the topics.

There was a committee discussion about the proposed set up, and the current course allocation and credits for both certificate and AAT levels. The potential addition of a capstone class in the final quarter opens up the possibility for the students to prepare for national exam or develop a portfolio.

Brenda asked Bob and Derrick what Walgreens as an employer is looking for in graduates. Bob outlined that the main check is state certification and then look at personality as they would be on the frontline dealing with customers.

Bob continued that he was surprised to learn that the level of teaching and course content was quite so advanced. Dawn explained that this is a result of earlier Advisory Committee discussions that forecast a need to build up courses around technicians who would need additional skills such as HR, budgeting etc. There was also a prediction that this increased content would help form a degree pathway. Bob continued that he is interested to hear about the BASAM degree with reference to potential internships at Walgreens.

Brenda also asked the committee members about their thoughts on interdisciplinary work as this is an area she is pleased to encourage. Bob and Derrick outlined that this is not something that has really been seen yet. Zach continued that Portland is somewhat behind other areas in this, but the techs are interacting.

Derrick continued that the reality is that there are broadly two types of tech, and that should be emphasized – there is the kind of tech that interacts with doctors, and the ones who are more versed in interacting with customers. From his perspective, he meets a number that do not have any people skills. Bob reiterated that there is an absence of soft skills in the candidates he meets.

Dawn shared that the last curriculum revision credits were configured to include things like resume writing and interview skills etc. In response to a question from Zach regarding how much emphasis is placed on customer services and communication, Dawn responded that there is time for students to practice skills and scenarios with correct verbiage etc.

There was further discussion on the proposed course revisions outlined in Dawn’s hand out. The committee decided that a summer meeting would be beneficial so that any agreed upon revisions can be prepared in good time for the appropriate college committees.

In discussion about developing online courses, Dawn emphasized that this is an issue that was perhaps best returned to once the curriculum changes had been further explored and finalized.

Other Business

Vision 20/20 is an ongoing theme for the committee as the department looks towards accreditation and industry standards for equipment and curriculum.

Dawn shared with the committee that the Pharmacy Tech students had been involved in the successful ‘Healthy Penguin Walkabout’, working collaboratively with the other health departments to demonstrate the effects of sugar. The Pharm Tech students demonstrated the potential costs of diabetes to over 300 community members that made the walk.

Debbie also highlighted the results of a survey of a small group of recent graduates that yielded positive results in terms of career readiness and post-graduation employment.

Zach communicated with the committee that the Oregon Society of Health System Pharmacists is working on a strategic plan and looking at the advancement of pharmacy techs. They are looking at planning a Technicians Summit in the future, and students are encouraged to attend. Zach will provide Dawn with more information.

Brenda took the opportunity to thank Debbie Ortiz for her hard work with the program, and her dedicated service during her time at Clark. Zach reiterated his thanks for her contributions and help with the committee.

Next Meeting Date

The committee proposed a number of dates: Nichola will conduct a Doodle poll to determine the best date for committee members to meet during the summer months.

Zach adjourned the meeting at 7.39pm

Prepared/Submitted by Nichola Farron