



SURG -MINUTES
October 10, 2025, at 12:00 PM
Zoom

Members Present: Keri Ferraro (Committee Chair), Internal Organizer, OFNHP; Brian Adair (Vice-Chair), Assistant Program Manager, PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center; Leah Carter, Monica Ibarra, Jessica Bunnell, Manager, Products Surgical Services, PeaceHealth; Josh Dodd, Operating Room Manager, Providence Portland Medical Center

Guests:

Members Absent: Peter Mersereau, Director of Surgical, Interventional, and Emergency Services, PeaceHealth; Lauri Luepke, Surgical Tech, Legacy Salmon Creek Hospital; Stacy Anderson, Surgical Tech, The Vancouver Clinic; Sean Moore, Senior Project Manager, Workforce SW WA; Karin LaValla, Business Services Consultant, WorkSource; Jason K Masuoka, Surgical Tech, Salem Hospital

Clark College: Scot Headley, Dean of Business Health & Sciences, Clark College; Jim Reynolds, Professor & Director of Surgical Technology Program; Elizabeth Flores, Advisory Coordinator, Clark College; Jessica Hash, Academic Advisor, Clark College; Sarah Kuzera, MA Department Chair, Clark College; Olga Lyubar, HIM Department Chair, Clark College; Elizabeth Jochim, Allied Health Department Chair, Clark College; Alejandra Maciulewicz Herring, MA Instructor, Clark College;

The meeting began at 12:02 PM, and a quorum was met.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The committee will meet next on February 27, 2025.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the previous meeting on February 27th, 2025, were approved.

COLLEGE UPDATES

The committee discussed the frequency of advisory meetings. Keri suggested maintaining three meetings per year, which Josh supported. Jim proposed holding a winter meeting to assess turnout and engagement, after which the committee will decide if a spring meeting is necessary.

Cohort Update

Jim reported that the program enrolled 18 students, with a capacity for 20. One student chose a different path, and another became unresponsive before the term began.

The first term includes two in-person classes and one online class. The program currently has a laparoscopic tower but lacks a compatible camera.

Lab Update

Jim continues to organize and arrange the lab. The program lacks several key items, including arm boards, airplane positioning attachments, and additional bed accessories. He requested that any facility with unused or outdated equipment consider donating or lending these items for instructional purposes.

The program also needs:

- Light cords (even those with minor defects are acceptable)
- Cysto equipment or a loaner tray
- Orthopedic power tools (corded or wireless)

Leah inquired about the tower brand; Jim confirmed it is likely a Stryker model and will verify via email. Keri suggested contacting vendor representatives (e.g., Stryker) for retired or unused equipment.

Brian asked about soft supplies—Jim confirmed gloves and gowns are sufficient, but sutures are limited. He encouraged donations of expired suture materials. Brian will speak with his implant coordinator regarding potential donations.

Advisory Committee Needs

Jim stated the program still needs a surgeon and an anesthesiologist representative. Per accrediting body requirements (AHRQ STSA), these members do not need to attend meetings in person if they are informed of the agenda and minutes before and after meetings.

Scot clarified that Clark College and the state have no restrictions on this approach. However, maintaining balanced representation between management and working surgical technologists is important. The committee discussed recruiting additional practicing surgical technologists.

Jessica offered to connect interested STs. Brian will reach out to a surgeon who may wish to participate.

Clinical Placement Update

Scot reported challenges securing clinical placements, noting that the workload and complexity are higher than anticipated. The program originally aimed to place first-year students (Winter and Spring terms) at Washington sites such as PeaceHealth and The Vancouver Clinic. However, this proved unfeasible, and outreach has expanded to Providence, Legacy, and OHSU.

Action Items:

- Leah and Scot will connect regarding placement coordination.
- Leah will involve the PeaceHealth education department (lcarter3@peacehealth.org).
- Scot and Keri will discuss HEAT.
- Scot will provide a placement update before the end of the term.

Jim emphasized the need for a second full-time faculty member to manage clinical coordination, ideally before the next academic year. He also highlighted the importance of adjunct instructors and preceptors who are enthusiastic about teaching and supporting inexperienced students.

Keri shared her experience as a surgical tech instructor, recommending that clinical site educators clearly understand students' beginner skill levels and support them through their first scrubbing experiences.

Budget and Staffing

Scot reviewed budget constraints, explaining that the college is facing a reduction due to a statewide reallocation of funds tied to enrollment numbers. He encouraged letters of support from committee members and partner organizations to advocate for fully staffing the program by mid-November.

Josh and Keri volunteered to draft letters of support.

If funding is not approved, Scot and Jim will seek to hire at least one part-time adjunct immediately to assist with clinical supervision or instruction as needed.

Brian asked about adjunct requirements—Scot noted that industry certification and experience are required, with teaching experience preferred. Beth added that PRN employees are ideal adjunct candidates due to their scheduling flexibility.

Curriculum Update

Jim announced that the *Statistics for Healthcare Professionals* course will be removed from the program map, as it is not required.

Motion: Keri motioned to remove the course; Josh seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Jessica asked whether *Health 124 (CPR and First Aid)* would be added to the curriculum. Jim clarified that it remains under discussion. Students must still complete the American Heart Association CPR certification, though the class itself is not required.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM