



Veterinary Technology Advisory Meeting Notes

Date: November 1, 2021

Meeting Place: Remote via Zoom

<u>Called to order</u>: 6:30 p.m. <u>Chair(s)</u>: Erin Krier <u>Note Taker:</u> Erin Krier

Council Members Present: Kerri Burns, Shelley Rice, Jesslyn Tilley, Amy Rice, Dr. Karen Vagnoni

Council Members Absent: Erin Zobel, Dr. Brenda Forsythe, Rebecca Gamboa, Dr. Katie Marrie, Dr. Helen

Harris, Linda Metaxas

Ex-officio Member Present: Dr. Sean Abel

Agenda No. 1 Update on Full-time Faculty/Coordinator Hiring Status

Discussion:

- Following the retirement of Dr. Richard Seidenberg in May 2020, the hiring process to fill the vacant position was put on hold due to the disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The date for resuming the hiring process remains undetermined and has been delayed due to some contract details that require clarification.
- Erin Krier (Agriculture program instructor/coordinator) is temporarily fulfilling all coordinator responsibilities until the position can be permanently filled.
- Dedicated part-time faculty are currently instructing all courses.

Action: none

Deadline: n/a **Responsibility:** n/a

Agenda No. 2 Additional Course Needs

Discussion:

- Erin Krier solicited recommendations for expanding classes that can serve Vet Tech students for specialized experience that can also benefit AHC animal science students who are pursuing studies in the Agriculture program. Allan Hancock College has been approached by Cal Poly State University Animal Science professors interested in seeing increased offerings for transfer into their Animal Science program and there could be some courses that would benefit Vet Tech and Animal Science students alike.
- An in-depth discussion started following presentation of a list of potential options for additional course offerings: Veterinary Workplace Safety, Large Animal Medicine and Nursing, Exotic and Wildlife Medicine, Introductory Animal Nutrition and Feeding, Anatomy and Physiology of Farm Animals, and Animal Welfare and Handling.
- All members of the committee contributed significant insight into the conversation from the perspectives of the industry, of transfer to university, and of current VT program faculty.
- All current instructional faculty agreed that one of the major challenges of the program is a stark contrast between two distinct groups of students: those who have clinical veterinary experience and those who have never engaged in a clinical setting but did meet the requirements for acceptance into the program. This poses a challenge when some students in the current VT courses already know basic laboratory techniques while others have to be taught every step from the most simple lab process that needs to be understood before they can move onto the actual lesson material. Consequently, the committee suggested that an optional Introductory Clinical Laboratory Techniques course be established to provide this basic knowledge to those students who enter the program with no clinical or laboratory experience. This will allow the existing courses to run more smoothly and concentrate on the course content rather than basic preparatory skills. This course could be mandatory for students who do not have clinical experience and may be offered





alongside VT 300, such as "VT 300L".

- The committee also suggested Introduction to Animal Feeding and Nutrition
- There was also discussion about the benefit of adding other courses: workplace safety, animal welfare and handling, exotic and wildlife specialty, large animal science, food animal production poultry, dairy, beef, swine, etc.
- Shelley Rice mentioned that food animal production would be a great bridge for the FFA and animal science students.
- Jesslyn Tilley reiterated that a large animal specialized course will be essential for students moving forward.
- Shelley Rice also brought up the human pathogens that are mainly issues stemming from large animals and how important that topic is in agriculture.
- The committee cautioned about adding too many units to the courseload for working students struggling to get through the program. Some discussion ensued about mental health needs of RVTs.
- Kerri Burns echoed the need for mental health considerations the psychology of veterinary work, workplace safety, and animal welfare, sheltering, and herd health.

Action: Erin Krier will work on developing the appropriate curriculum.

Deadline: ASAP **Responsibility:** Erin Krier

Agenda No. 3 Instructional and Storage Space

Discussion:

- The severe challenge that the program continues to face is the lack of dedicated instructional and storage space. Due to a change in space needs in M-207, Erin Krier was tasked with packing up all of the VT program supplies and moving them to Building W.
- Two rooms in W-22 now house all instructional supplies for the program.
- Keys have been requested through Campus Police for all VT faculty so they can access the supplies.
- The challenge will be the need to move those items across the parking lot and back again to storage before and after the night classes.
- Jesslyn Tilley mentioned that there are other items stored in the Building M lab storage rooms
- The hope is that W-22 will also become instructional space so that the classes can be taught in the same are where the class supplies are stored.

Action: None

Deadline: n/a Responsibility: n/a

Agenda No. 4 Fall 2021 & Spring 2022 Course Modality

• All Vet Tech courses are being taught entirely in-person this fall and the anticipation is that spring will be the same format.

Discussion:

• Faculty can choose to have a Zoom option for students who may be sick or in quarantine, although this additional modality is not required.

Action: None

Deadline: n/a **Responsibility:** n/a

Agenda No. 5 Internship & Job Opportunities – reaching students

Discussion:

• Erin Krier discussed some of the job and internship opportunities that industry partners have reached out seeking to fill. While these job opportunities have been shared with students, there





seems to be a lack of interest in students applying for them.

- Faculty discussed some of the barriers to students responding to those opportunities.
- Jesslyn Tilley suggested that the bigger issue for the program as a whole is to develop established internship relationships with local partners to bridge that gap for students in the program who need to earn their work hours in a clinical setting.
- Amy Rice mentioned that she has two clinics that would work for such a program, and Jesslyn Tilley echoed that sentiment regarding her work at the county animal shelter.
- Jesslyn Tilley informed the committee that a requirement of the program used to be to work a certain number of hours of either paid or unpaid time in a clinical setting while taking the VT program courses, and those numbers were logged by the program coordinator to ensure compliance with that requirement. She suggested that we consider bringing back that requirement.
- Amy Rice agreed with adding this program requirement.
- Kerri Burns suggested reaching out to Dr. Marrie regarding internships and job openings.
- Jesslyn Tilley suggested phrasing volunteer needs at the shelter as unpaid internships to meet this program requirement.
- Erin Krier mentioned Cooperative Work Experience for college credit and there was broad agreement that this should be considered to add as a program requirement.
- Shelley Rice mentioned that this would be a good way to fill unpaid industry internship needs while helping students get necessary experience.
- It will be important to develop formal internship agreements with agencies and clinics in both San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties.
- Amy Rice has two hospitals in Arroyo Grande and Jesslyn Tilley has connections with county shelters where these official partnerships might be established.
- Dr. Abel mentioned that we will need to review required paperwork and liability forms.
- Dr. Vagnoni suggested that the internship program begin in the summer for incoming students to get some hands-on experience prior to starting the program in the fall.

Action:

Follow up on the option of adding current, clinical work experience as a requirement of the program.

Deadline: n/a **Responsibility:** Erin Krier

Agenda No. 6 Program Data

- Erin Krier presented some program data from the college's Institutional Effectiveness databases.
- 28 students were accepted into the program for 2021-2022

Discussion:

- 3 applicants have already been accepted into the program for 2022-2023
- Historical award data was shared that shows that awards have fluctuated since the 2014-2015 academic year, but the past two years have seen a steady rise in program completion.

Action: None

Deadline: n/a **Responsibility:** n/a





Agenda No. 7 Program Promotion and Outreach

• Erin Krier shared links to new promotional materials – flyers and video – which can be shared

digitally to promote the program.

Discussion: • Erin Zobel was planning to share this program information with the Mid-Coast Veterinary

Medical Association per the recommendation of the committee in the past.

Action: Erin Krier can put hard copies of the flyers in faculty mailboxes for distribution

Deadline: n/a **Responsibility:** Erin Krier

Agenda No. 7 Additional Committee Feedback

Discussion: • None.

Action: None needed.

n/a

Deadline: n/a Responsibility:

Reports: Important Dates and Follow-up

• Next advisory committee meeting will be Monday, March, 7 2022 at 6:30 pm