

St. Petersburg College
Veterinary Technology Program
Advisory Committee Meeting
9/6/2012

Minutes

Attending: Gary Oswald, Duane Steward, Rich Flora, Tricia Gorham, Stacey Wieder

Regrets: Tom Lane, Rhonda Valdez, Gary Harrell, Allison Sateren

OLD BUSINESS

Topic	Discussion/Recommendations	Action
Review April 26, 2012 minutes	Move to approve Stacey Weider Second Gary Oswald	Approved
Enrollment	Discussed enrollment for AS and BAS programs. Interest in program continues to be very high – both on campus and online, AS and BAS.	Current enrollment is 122 campus and 180 online AS students, 135 BAS students. Have admitted 45 new AS campus students, 62 new AS distance students, and 22 new BAS students for the fall semester.
Program Changes	Currently reviewing AS curriculum to make sure content is current and structure is best.	Faculty competed AS curriculum review over summer, recommended changes to some

		prerequisite requirements to make sure students had knowledge needed to do well in courses.
Graduation	Graduated 45 AS students and 15 BAS students in May, graduated 10 AS and 2 BAS students in July.	
VTNE results	Discussed March/April 2012 VTNE results.	Distance students consistently score higher on VTNE, strongly think difference is due to the increased time spent in practice by distance students, have increased work experience course requirement to 100 hours, committee unanimously felt time in practice for our campus students is critical to their success.
New building	Main issues remaining are floor in kennel area and automatic doors in dog runs.	Contractor is scheduled to visit to determine solutions.
New VT programs	New programs at Pensacola and Florida A&M have students, not AVMA accredited yet. Sanford Brown has opened accredited programs in Jacksonville and Ft Lauderdale. Investigating	

	starting a program in Tampa.	
Equipment purchases	New dental machine in April	Asked committee to advise if new technology is being used so we can make sure our students are aware and can use.
Labor market data	Job announcements still coming in. Bureau of Labor Statistics continues to project a strong job outlook for veterinary technicians in Florida.	Continue to monitor job outlook.
Graduate placement	Placement continues to be 97% +. Several (5) new graduates have been hired by UF's teaching hospital.	Continue to monitor along with job market outlook and applications.
Graduate and Employer Surveys	Graduate and employer surveys indicate both groups are very satisfied with the programs.	Continue to monitor survey results.
Student Internships	New internship at Lemur Conservancy in Myakka City.	Contact state diagnostic lab and fish and wildlife to see if interest is there. Duane suggested contacting Canine Companions for Independence in Orlando.
BAS update	Enrollment continues to be strong Nutrition and Animal Science courses continue to be taken by students applying to UF veterinary school each semester	

Next meeting	April 2013. Date to be determined.	
Marketing	Need to find better way of educating the public on the differences between public and for-profit programs, including accreditation of the college.	Asked for ideas.
Emerging areas of veterinary medicine	As we review our curriculum it will be very important to incorporate new technology and knowledge our students will need to be successful.	Inform us about new developments so we can make sure they are covered in our program.
Student Debt	Concern over amount of students graduating from vet school – average \$150,000. Our students have an average of \$16,000 upon graduation. Rule of thumb is no more debt than first year salary. Average salary for our students is \$25,000 - \$29,000.	Continue to monitor, make students aware of consequences of debt.
New BS Degree	We are developing a new BS degree that combines our AS degree and the admission requirements for UF's vet school. Meeting scheduled with SPC's person who reviews new program proposals for approval.	Once program is developed will go through approval process at SPC, then the state. Realistically is 2 years away from implementation if approved.
Student Exchange Program	Exchange program with program at Hansenberg College in Kolding, Denmark has been finalized. Will occur next April and June. Exchanged students with Ridgewater College	Students to enroll by December 31. Cost will be partially covered by SPC.

	<p>program in Minnesota. Have spoken with Ridgewater director about successes and challenges they encountered.</p>	
<p>State limitations</p>	<p>The federal Department of Education is forcing states to enforce their requirements that regulate out-of-state schools offering online courses and programs. As a result, we are no longer offering our programs in Alabama, Arkansas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, and North Carolina.</p>	<p>Will continue to monitor situation.</p>

New Business

<p>Florida program director meeting</p>	<p>Discussed two main topics – credentialing of technicians in Florida and internship at state diagnostic lab in Kissimmee.</p>	<p>Programs will send a request to FVMA and FVTA to adopt definitions of veterinary assistant, veterinary technician, veterinary technologist, credentialed technician and technologist, and the levels of supervision developed by FVMA’s veterinary technician</p>
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		committee in 2009. Will also pursue alternatives – legislation?
Internships	Duane suggested contacting Fish and Wildlife to establish internship.	Will pursue along with internship at state diagnostic lab.
Oral communication abilities of our graduates	Stacey indicated one of the weaknesses they encounter with our graduates is their ability to communicate orally.	Will incorporate more oral communication in our lab courses and professional development course.
Integration of veterinary medicine with human medicine	Duane suggested we investigate ways to integrate aspects of veterinary medicine with human health care – communicating with human physicians when a pet plays a role in a patient’s life, animal visitation to hospitals, etc.	Will contact local hospital groups and offer to establish partnership with our program, visit Gainesville to speak with vet school and human medicine administrators.