

ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE  
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES, 06/10/2010

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Marlon Alaan, Sue Barber, Mary Ellen Barkman, Teresa Dean, David Erickson, Ernesto Monroy, Norman Schlact, Shamsah Shidi, Maryellen Sullivan

GUESTS PRESENT: Damon Kuhn (Coordinator of Admissions and Registration), Gary Graham (Outreach Coordinator)

PROGRAM FACULTY: Rebecca Kramer (Program Director)  
Marja Beaufait, Mary Hanlon, Barb Heier

MEETING TIME: 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM

I. Introductions

Committee members and others introduced themselves and indicated their current place of employment.

II. New Admissions Procedure

Mr. Kuhn reported to the Committee the new admission procedure for the PTA Program which will begin December 2010. The change was initiated to do away with the three year waiting list for entry into the program as well as create some kind of selective process for applications. In December 2010 applications will no longer be taken for seats beyond 2011. There will now be an open enrollment period each year for seats in the following August class. Mr. Kuhn explained that two of the pre-entry requirements, BSC 2085 and HSC 1531, would be weighted with higher points given for A's and B's. Those applicants with the most points would be given preference for available seats.

III. Program Update

R. Kramer reported the following:

- On May 8, 2010 the PTA Program graduated 24 students. Two other students have finished the PTA curriculum but still have one general education/support courses to finish and anticipate

graduating in July 2009. This class initially began in the fall of 2008 with 46 students.

- There are 31 freshman who will complete their first clinical affiliation this summer. This class initially began with 47 in the fall of 2009.

Ms. Kramer gave graduation rates for the past three years:

2008: 78.57%

2009: 66.6%

2010: 56.52%

Ideas generated to assist with student retention included establishment of study groups by the faculty in the first semester of the program. Student participation in these groups would be voluntary. Have students who were not successful during a semester attend new student orientation and talk about why they were unsuccessful and what changes they have made.

- The program has been full for the August 2010 class for over a year and a half. The 2011 class filled in early January of 2010 and slots are now being filled for 2012.
- There are currently two patients being seen in the PT clinic: 21 y/o meniscal repair and a 20 y/o bilateral knee pain.

Ms. Hanlon stated what a good learning experience the clinic was for the students but lack of faculty time did not allow for more than one or two patients to be seen. The Program is working with the Health Center Provost in an effort to find funding to bring aboard a full time Physical Therapist to staff the clinic. Ms. Barkman suggested seeking a grant to fund the clinic PT position and offered to assist with writing the proposal; she indicated having had significant grant writing experience.

#### Pass Rate Scores

R. Kramer distributed national exam pass rate scores from the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy, both first time rates and ultimate pass rates. SPC graduates consistently scored better in both categories at the state and national level.

#### IV. Critical Thinking Initiative

Ms. Heier, Ms. Hanlon and Ms. Beaufait presented the critical thinking project they created as part of SPC's QEP. They shared the ethical scenario they selected for students to write a critical thinking essay on and

discussed how they would measure success of the project using the Assessment of Critical Thinking Scoring Template (ARC).

Committee members were shown some of the podcasts faculty have created to assist in developing PTA student critical thinking skills. Committee members were asked to consider other Podcast ideas they may have that could also promote critical thinking and submit these ideas to faculty.

V. PT Labor Market Data

R. Kramer distributed labor market data:

[http://www.careerinfonet.org/occ\\_rep.asp?next=occ\\_rep&level=&optstatus=011000000&stfips=12&jobfam=&id=1&nodeid=2&keyword=PHYSICAL&socode=312021&x=45&y=10](http://www.careerinfonet.org/occ_rep.asp?next=occ_rep&level=&optstatus=011000000&stfips=12&jobfam=&id=1&nodeid=2&keyword=PHYSICAL&socode=312021&x=45&y=10)

Committee members agreed the median numbers were in keeping with current employment salaries for PTAs.

VI. Announcements

Mr. Graham thanked Committee members for their time and input, he indicated Ms. Kramer would be sending a survey link for them to evaluate Advisory Committee activities.