

ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES, 09/06/2012

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Marlon Alaan, Sue Barber, Marja Beaufait, Mary Ellen Barkman, David Erickson, Shamsah Shidi, Mary Ellen Sullivan, Tricia Trinke

PROGRAM FACULTY: Rebecca Kramer (Program Director)
Mary Hanlon, Barb Heier, Kory Thomas

MEETING TIME: 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM

I. Introductions

R. Kramer introduced new faculty member Dr. Kory Thomas who gave a brief professional bio to the Committee.

Those present introduced themselves and indicated their current place of employment.

R. Kramer reported the following:

- There are 22 sophomores. This class initially began with 40 in the fall of 2011.
- There are 39 freshmen. This class initially began with 40 students enrolled for August of 2012. One student did not show up the first week of class deciding to pursue her AA. There were 149 applicants interviewed for this class, 20 of whom had secure seats as they were from the wait list, the other 20 were selected using the new admission criteria: pre-entry requirements, GPA, and scores from a group interview.

II. PTA Program Pass Rate Scores

R. Kramer passed out copies of the program's latest (August 23rd) report on national licensure exam pass rates. For the graduating class of May 2012, 17 of the 22 students took the licensure exam on July 17th and all 17 passed first time to give the program a 100% first time pass rate percentage, well above the state average of 84.75% and the US average of 87.38%.

III. Review May/June Interview Process

R. Kramer asked M. Barkman and D. Erickson to discuss their thoughts on the interview process. These two committee members participated in all day interviews during May and June. Both discussed the value of bringing potential students together to tackle a problem solving project and hold topic discussions. The perception was that students better understood the need to function as a team, faculty members B. Heier, M. Hanlon and K. Thomas agreed that although just 3 weeks into their PTA courses this year's freshmen class appear to be performing in labs more cohesively than past groups.

D. Erickson did express concern regarding potential students "freezing up" during the group interview and being perceived as less than a team player when that may not be the case and receiving a less than competitive score as a result. R. Kramer asked how the interview rubric might be modified to take this situation into account committee members will ponder this point and bring suggestions to the spring meeting.

K. Thomas inquired if those potential students participating in the interview process were aware, in advance, that it was a group interview vs individual interview. R. Kramer responded that it was not stated as such in any written correspondence with attendees, however if students called and asked for more information they were told it was a group interview. This information will be posted on the PTA admission website for next year under admission criteria.

IV. Comprehensive Academic Program Review (CAPR)

R. Kramer emailed the Program's 2011-2012 CAPR to Committee members for review on August 29th for discussion and feedback at this meeting. R. Kramer reviewed action plan items, the third item regarding collaboration with other health disciplines with case studies in Cerner (EMR program) will not be accomplished as the decision was made to not renew the subscription. M. Barkman suggested SPC's IT department might be able to develop some type of mock EMR for PTA students to gain practice with.

Action: R. Kramer to investigate the possibility of SPC's IT department creating a mock EMR for PTA students.

V. Review Program's Major Learning Outcomes and Program Sequencing Map

R. Kramer gave handouts of the programs Major Learning Outcomes and asked committee members to review for current industry relevancy. Committee members agreed the goals were still relevant to the industry, M. Alaan commented specifically on the relevancy of the communication goal that states graduates will provide documentation that is legible, logical, grammatically correct and *reimbursable*.

R. Kramer questioned the need to add evidence based practice (EBP) to the Scientific method goal as graduates indicated their national exam had 25 + questions related to research and R. Kramer had added an additional hour of research terms, descriptions of different types of research, different levels of research, steps to practicing EBP and critical assessment of research literature. S. Barber stated it should be added if students were being tested on it and clinicians were requiring students to practice EBP, other committee members agreed. D. Erickson suggested language for MLO 1 to include EBP.

Committee members stated having difficulty accessing on-line research databases to practice EBP in the clinic. R. Kramer stated Advisory Committee members and clinical instructors, as a courtesy for their time and efforts with students and valuable program feedback, may have rights to SPC's library resources. Committee members who wish to access SPC's library were asked to email R. Kramer and she will set them up with a password.

Action: R. Kramer will make the suggested change to include EBP in MLO 1 and will secure a password for the online-library for members who would like to take advantage of this benefit.

VI. Equipment

R. Kramer asked Committee members if they would support the purchase of a new Biodex System 4 for student training. Several affiliating agencies do utilize this piece of equipment with their patients (Ekren, James Haley, Mease Sports Medicine, Florida Hospital). Additionally, a group project the students are required to complete utilizing the Biodex (working out correct knee and shoulder set ups as well as using the different exercise modes) promotes teamwork and critical thinking skills as well as helping them understand the different types of muscle contractions (isokinetic vs isotonic vs eccentric). Committee members did support the purchase of a new Biodex.

K. Thomas asked Committee members if light therapy or lasers are being used with frequency in the clinics. Committee members agreed that they were using cold lasers with good results and using it more frequently than light therapy as infrared was not reimbursable due to the lack of research literature supporting beneficial outcomes.

T. Trinke also recommended investigating Biodex's Balance system and M. Sullivan recommended looking at the Proprio System for purchase.

VII. Announcements

M. Alaan announced he would be providing his first CEU course "Evaluating and Treating Obese Physical Therapy Patients" November 13th.

M. Hanlon reported the PTA labs rooms are under construction, a wall was removed and renovations will be complete soon to give the program additional lab space. M. Hanlon suggested having an open house to show Committee Members, graduates and other program stakeholders the PTA program's "new look".