

**Physical Therapist Assistant Program
Advisory Committee Fall Meeting Minutes
Sept. 12, 2013
7:30 pm**

I. Introductions

- a. **Mary Hanlon** called the meeting to order and asked attendees to introduce themselves

II. Program Update

- a. **Rebecca Kramer** stated the following regarding the program update:
 - i. Students:
 - i. 79% retention rate so far. This is the best that it's been in a while.
 - ii. The year before, 20 people gave up their seat but this year that wasn't the case.
 - iii. There are 49 students currently on the wait list for 2014 and 2015. We may not have any seats for August because applicants may feel that they won't get accepted based on GPA, etc. under selective admissions.
 - iv. Prior retention:
 - a. 2013- 50%
 - b. 2012- 55%
 - c. 2011- 65%
 - d. 2010- 61%
 - e. 2009- 64%
 - v. In the past, a lot of people came into this program because of the economy and needed a job. May not have fully understood what they were getting into and some didn't have the aptitude.
 - vi. (For current sophomores) Those who got in under the selective admissions were probably so excited that there was overflow to those who were on the waitlist.

III. Pass Rate Scores

- a. **Rebecca Kramer**-
 - i. 2013: First time test takers- 15/18 passed. "This was the first time we've fallen below national averages since I have been the PD. We still have 3 students who didn't take the test in May and will be taking it in October."
- b. **Ashley**- Asked if the students have to graduate prior to taking the test and whether or not there is mock exam that they take prior.
- c. **Rebecca Kramer**- "Next year's class should do very well on the exam."
- d. **Mary Ellen B.**- "The percentages will most likely trend up."

IV. Review of June Interview Process

- a. **Rebecca Kramer**- Asked the committee if they thought we needed to go through with the interviews one more time.
- b. **Mary Ellen B.**- Thinks it will give them more data. She stated that it could show if there is a correlation between drop outs and scores on their rubric. "It would be testing the validity of the rubric, not the students. We need to test the validity of the tool. Are the results opposite of what we would expect such as those with low scores who do well in the program."
- c. **S. Shidi**- Shared story of a student who came into her clinic not dressed appropriately but is now in Nurse Practitioner school.
- d. **Rebecca Kramer**- "Do you think when we meet in May we should have the committee look at the rubric again?"
- e. **Mary Ellen B.**- "Yes."
- f. **Rebecca Kramer**- "Ok. We'll bring it back in May."
- g. **Mary Ellen S.**- "You'd only have approximately 49 people."
- h. **Mary Hanlon**- "You wouldn't interview all of those who met the criteria."
- i. **Rebecca Kramer**- Discussed that we didn't know ahead of time that we'd only have 3 seats.
- j. **S. Shidi**- "There should be some sort of financial penalty for those who hang on to their seats and let them go last minute."
- k. **Rebecca Kramer**- "The student who got in last minute is doing really well."
- l. **Mary Ellen B.**- Thinks we should let it known that we only have a few spots for next year.
- m. **S. Shidi**- "Maybe you can tell the applicants that if people cancel, then we will take applicants who are high on the list."
- n. **Mary Hanlon**- Discussed how a student called and left a nice message and didn't hang up. Then they went on to say negative things about the interview while speaking with their family.

V. Discussion of Math Requirement

- a. **Rebecca Kramer**-
 - i. "The college is asking each program to select one math course for the their program. Which course do you think is going to help our students in this field? We looked at Math for Liberal Arts and an Elementary Statistics course."
 - ii. Discussed the reason why the Stats course would help the students with evidence based research. Dr. Kramer called Jimmy Chang and discussed this as well. After speaking with Jimmy, he didn't think the Math for Liberal Arts had enough of what our students would need.
 - iii. Shared the math requirements from other PTA programs.
- b. **Mary Ellen B.**- "Which program is the most similar to our program?"
- c. **S. Shidi**- "I like the Statistics."
- d. **Rebecca Kramer**- "If they decide to go on, it should serve them better."

- e. **S. Shidi**- "It's what separates us from athletic trainers, etc."
- f. **Mary Ellen B.**- "Will it affect the outcome?" She went on to describe her experience with Calculus while in school.
- g. **Mary Ellen S.**- Does not think that Statistics at this level will be very helpful.
- h. **Rebecca Kramer**- "Nursing was going to go with College Algebra but later decided to have them take Statistics."
- i. **Mary Ellen B.**- "I got what I learned from Stats from my PT program."
- j. **Barb Heier**- Thinks that Stats will keep students from getting into the program. "I was mixed on this. The other math classes don't go very deep with the math."
- k. **Rebecca Kramer**- "They are piloting a Gateway course at another campus. The successful rate of the course is very good. Jimmy didn't feel the Liberal Arts Math had the breadth that we're looking for."
- l. **Barb Heier**- "We're talking about a 2 year program."
- m. **Kory Thomas**- "Do you feel a Stats class would assist a student with problem solving and do you think this necessary for a PTA?"
- n. **Mary Ellen B.**- Asked Barb where the students' weaknesses are in her course. She stated that if it's the critical thinking, would Stats provide them with these skills?
- o. **Mary Hanlon**- "We can always change it back."
- p. **Rebecca Kramer**- "We can also look at the Gateway course."
- q. **Barb Heier**- Asked Ashley what she thought.
- r. **Ashley**- Provided her opinion. She stated that the Elementary Statistics course is not that bad.
- s. **Rebecca Kramer**- Stated that she will have additional conversations with Jimmy.
- t. **Mary Ellen B., Rebecca Kramer, S. Shidi**- Discussion ensued regarding requirements of the SPC O&P program, APTA, and whether or not we could use the 3 credits for something different such as a Psychology course.
- u. **Ashley**- Stated that it has to be a math course.
- v. **Mary Ellen B.**- "Do you have reference to the general education grades for the past students? She stated that PTs have to do more of the stats compared to PTAs.
- w. **Mary Hanlon**- Mentioned the importance of math.
- x. **Mary Ellen B.**- "Look at the history and see what their general education scores were. This will give us data."
- y. **Ashley**- "Maybe look at the data over the past 5 years and pick a few students and look at their math classes and see how they did." Ashley asked what has changed on the exam.
- z. **Rebecca Kramer**- "More research, evidence-based, tests and measures, pathology."

VI. Continuing Education Brochures

- a. **Rebecca Kramer**- "Now the college is sending out individual brochures and enrollment into CE courses has declined."
- b. **Mary Ellen S.**- "They should be sent out a little earlier."

- c. **Mary Ellen B.**- “Can they be sent out electronically?”
- d. **Rebecca Kramer**- Stated that she can forward them to everyone.
- e. **Mary Ellen S.**- Thinks that if you don’t send out flyers, you may get lost in the shuffle.

VII. Equipment

- a. **Rebecca Kramer**- Said O&P has asked us to help out with Wounded Combat Warriors- had a patient come in with a history of B amputation and TBI. When James Haley doesn’t treat the patient every day, perhaps the patients could come to our clinic. Asked the committee for their opinion about purchasing a standing frame which would be beneficial for some of these patients.
- b. **Mary Ellen S.**- “Would you be ready if James Haley wants to send a lot of patients to our clinic?”
- c. Discussion continued between Rebecca Kramer, Mary Ellen S., and S. Shidi.

VIII. Announcements

- a. **Mary Hanlon**- Announced that the program will be using Real HER with Cerner- students will purchase for 6 months for \$75.
- b. **Barb Heier**- Described how this software is not currently set up for physical therapy so we will need to work with the team to help create templates for us.
- c. **Rebecca Kramer**- This system should help students who go to BayCare.
- d. **S. Shidi**- Was sent to D.C. for lobbying. “It helped me to understand what’s really going on.”
- e. **Rebecca Kramer**- “Perhaps our students could take a SGA trip to Tallahassee for advocacy?”

IX. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.