

ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES, 5/22/2014

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Marlon Alaan, Sue Barber, Mary Ellen Barkman, Marja Beaufait, Teresa Chiavacci, Ernesto Monroy, Shamsah Shidi, Maryellen Sullivan, Jim Switzer

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

GUESTS PRESENT: Krista Fusari (Outreach Coordinator)

MEETING TIME: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

I. Introductions

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

II. Program Updates

Current Students

On May 13, 2014 the PTA Program graduated 27 students. This class initially began in the fall of 2012 with 39 students. This class had 21 students admitted from the selective admissions process, 17 came from the wait list and 1 student was a BayCare Earn As You Learn applicant. The program lost 12 students, 4 of the 12 who were withdrawn from the program came from the selective admissions but were not withdrawn for academic reasons (failed drug test, financial reasons, one student withdrew due to stress, one student was MIA prior to a clinical). The graduation rate for this class is 69%.

There are currently 24 freshmen. This class initially began with 40 students in August of 2013. Only 3 students from this class were from the selective admission process with one withdrawing in the first semester due to personal reasons. Currently, this class has a graduation rate of 57.5%

Jim Switzer asked about how our graduation rates compare to other PTA programs and AS programs at SPC. Teresa Chiavacci

commented on CAPTE's criteria and as a recent member of the Commission she stated an average graduation rate of 60% with some programs falling above and some below. R. Kramer commented on the graduation rate for other AS programs at SPC, those programs who have moved to a selective admission process have graduation rates in the high 70's/low 80's and those who admit on a first-come-first-serve basis have graduation rates in the 50's.

The application period for the fall 2014 cohort closed on May 15th. The admissions department has received 157 applications. In February letters were sent out, certified mail, to all 48 students on the wait list for August of 2014 inviting them to a mandatory orientation. There were 24 attendees and the program will hold places for 2 linkage students from Pasco County and 2 from Hillsborough County and 2 BayCare Earn as You Learn applicants. This leaves 10 open seats to be filled from the selective admission process.

Applicant interviews will be held on June 18 and June 24, R. Kramer invited advisory members to participate as interviewers as they have in the past.

III. Program Clinical Hours

R. Kramer discussed having more and more clinical affiliates asking for longer clinical hours. Presently SPC PTA students have three four and a half week clinicals, clinical affiliates would like that increased to 6 weeks. Clinicians feel the student is just getting acclimated to the clinic and patients and then their affiliation is over.

R. Kramer stated the Program's reluctance to increase the clinical hours due to the hardship this would place on students being unable to work for 6 weeks as well as the fact that SPC PTA graduate employers are not stating graduates lack in their clinical skill set. The Committee was asked for feedback on increasing clinical hours. The Committee was unanimous in agreeing that 4.5 weeks was too short a time, Ernesto Monroy commented that the students should have longer clinicals because they are being exposed to so many different types of patient's, disease processes, injuries and complex medical diagnosis.

Action: PTA Faculty will discuss the possibility of curriculum changes to accommodate longer clinical courses.

IV. Student Background Checks

R. Kramer related having to recently reassign a student scheduled to start in an acute care setting who had a 2008 misdemeanor for marijuana possession. The Committee was asked if these kinds of charges are now clinical “deal breakers” as misdemeanor charges have not been an issue in the past. Most indicated it would be and suggested the program only accept students who have a clean background check. Mary Ellen Sullivan stated the program has enough trouble finding clinical spots for students with no criminal background history, why make it harder.

Action: R. Kramer to schedule a meeting with Health Center Provost Dr. Nicotera and Admissions Coordinator Damon Kuhn to discuss adding a clean background history to the PTA Programs admission policy.

V. Community Service Project

Kory Thomas asked the Advisory Committee about ideas for community service activities with the students. Ideas were many:

- M. Barkman suggested partnering with the SPC Dental Hygienist program and performing ergonomic screening
- M. Hanlon suggested performing backpack assessments
- Jim Switzer suggested setting up a booth at a Gasparilla event
- M. Sullivan stated that we could incorporate the community service project into a Professionalism course – make it a requirement to attend a support group meeting and write a reflective paper in Trends
- Other suggestions included VoluntaryMatch.com, sports medicine screenings, balance assessments at the Senior Centers, and participating in Sunshine State Games were also suggested.

M. Alaan stated he would like to be a part of the community service activity when it was decided upon.

Action: K. Thomas will take the Committee ideas and see what will work for her and the students.

VI. PT Labor Market Data

R. Kramer gave statistics from the U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics on labor market data for PTA's in the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater area. The advisory board was in agreement that the hourly Mean Wage of \$27.93 was on the high side and would be appropriate for an PTA with several years of experience.

VII. Announcements

R. Kramer discussed APTA Task Force's Report on PTA education and the possibility of moving to a Bachelor's degree. The report indicated more studies were needed regarding the effects to those Community College's/Technical College's unprepared to offer four year degrees. There also need to be studies on the effects of PTA faculty who often hold only AS degrees. R. Kramer will attend NEXT conference and the HOD to hear the discussions.

R. Kramer also announced that the FCCE will present their Collaborative Model in Clinical Education at NEXT with the goal of eventually putting the presentation online for CEU's. Gina M, Jamie Dyson, Debra Stern and R. Kramer will present with R. Kramer discussing the PT/PTA Collaborative model.

M. Alaan asked about the West Central District Super Meeting held here at HEC last Saturday. R. Kramer and B. Heier both thought it went well, with mostly new faces than the attendees at district meetings held at USF. Ginger Le discussed adaptations and mobility solutions for patients with neurological disorders, she had a patient come in for treatment demonstrations, a mobility company and a adaptive solutions company. R. Kramer told the Committee the next West Central District Meeting in August will be at NOVA and will be geared towards PTAs.

PTA faculty recognized B. Heier for completing USF's tDPT program.