

ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES, 5/21/2015

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Marlon Alaan, Sue Barber, Mary Ellen Barkman, Winston Biltz, Teresa Chiavacci, Anthony Fasulo, Catherine Garvey, Norman Schlact, Shamsah Shidi, Maryellen Sullivan

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

GUESTS PRESENT: Jennie Orama (Health Education Center Outreach Specialist)

MEETING TIME: 7:00 PM – 8:50 PM

I. Introductions

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

II. Program Updates

a. **Rebecca Kramer**

- i. Provided an update of the program with statistics from recent grads and current freshman class (details provided on handout).
- ii. Described the application period for placement into the PTA cohort beginning August 2015.
- iii. “Data validates that the selective admissions process is effective.”
- iv. Explained linkage program to the Board and **Teresa Chiavacci** recommended finding out what programs there are with linkage.
- v. Discussed the possibility of students having to travel far distances for their clinicals.

b. **Tony Fasulo** said that we’re very clear about the possibility of needing to drive long distances for clinicals.

III. Open Position for Part-time PT Clinician to staff part-time clinic

a. **Rebecca Kramer**

- i. “This won’t be a complete answer to all of our clinical placement problems especially given the program has just increased clinical hours from 540 hours to 660 hours. This

adding of hours was a result of clinics stating they would not take SPC PTA students if clinicals were not extended. Having a clinic will assist students in putting their academic knowledge into practice and better prepare them for their clinicals.

- ii. Explained how this position came about. Described the discussions between Dr. Law and Dr. Nicotera.
 - iii. Announced that Dr. Nicotera left SPC and accepted a position with Houston Community College. At the time of his departure Dr. Nicotera did not know any of the details regarding the position but assumed since we asked for “full time” at 40 hours a week, “part-time” would be 20 hours. Eric Carver is now the Interim Provost. Described Eric Carver’s education/employment background.
 - iv. The search for a permanent Provost will begin in the fall with hopes to have a new Provost in place by the spring.
 - v. Announced that Dr. Flora will be the new Dean of the PTA program as well as O&P and Funeral Services. R. Kramer will ask Dr. Flora for more information regarding time line for hire of a PT clinician and implementation of the clinic.
 - vi. Stated that the program does not have the ECH hours to support the adjunct position Dr. Nicotera posted in December. This position was to assist R. Kramer, the Program Director, with the ACCE responsibilities she carries.
- b. Mary Ellen B.**
- i. Stated that every PTA program she knows has a DCE/ACCE separate from the PD position.
 - ii. Asked Rebecca Kramer about ratios, etc. for hours for faculty.
- c. Barb Heier**
- i. Stated that this clinical person could possibly help with clinical scheduling.
- d. Mary Ellen Sullivan**
- i. Asked about the clinical person possibly helping with finding additional clinical sites.
- e. Teresa Chiavacci**
- i. Went to Virginia for the CAPTE Commission Meeting**
 - 1. Explained that the Commission reviews PTA programs that are up for reaccreditation.
 - 2. “Never once I have run into a PTA program that has a combined Program Director and DCE/ACCE position.”
 - 3. She stated that one person on the Commission has seen this before but the number of enrolled students was low.
 - 4. Explained that before November of last year and before the new CAPTE criteria came out, someone suggested adding to the CAPTE criteria about not allowing a combined Program Director and DCE/ACCE position.

This was not included in the new criteria once it came out.

- f. **Kory Thomas**
 - i. Asked Teresa Chiavacci if there was a Program Director workload formula within the CAPTE criteria.
- g. **Mary Ellen B.**
 - i. Suggested logging/documenting the hours that are spent on DCE/ACCE duties and PD duties (perform a time study).
- h. **Rebecca Kramer**
 - i. Stated that she has tried to do that but the multi-tasking of job duties and ever increasing workload have prevented her from having enough time to log each hour dedicated to PD vs. faculty vs. DCE/ACCE duties. She did however share the number of clinical sites the Program has had since 2006 and how the number of available sites has gone from a surplus of 65 slots to a shortage of 60 slots for 2016 (see handout). In 2015 there was a shortage of 46 slots that required phone calls, emails and visits to secure for the enrolled students.

Before he left, Dr. Nicotera did approve a slight decrease in enrollment from 40 to 34 in response to the Advisory Committees recommendation to drop enrollment due to lack of clinical sites.

- i. **Teresa Chiavacci**
 - i. The PD workload has to be equitable to other PDs at the College, according to CAPTE criteria.

IV. **Grading Scale Change**

- a. **Mary Hanlon**
 - i. Described that if students just get by with a 75% in each class, in the end they are not successful with the program. They are getting a false sense of security.
- b. **Rebecca Kramer**
 - i. Asked the Advisory Committee for thoughts on changing the passing requirement from 75% to 78%.
 - ii. Described what the Respiratory program at SPC does - If students don't pass the final exam, regardless of the weighted percentage, they don't pass the course.
- c. **Mary Ellen Sullivan**
 - i. Stated that it's a good thing. "It's a good time to increase the grade requirement since we have the selective admissions process."
- d. **Rebecca Kramer**
 - i. Stated that she is the only faculty member who has a higher percentage for the final exam.
- e. **Mary Hanlon**
 - i. Stated that this was not the case for one of her courses.

- f. **Mary Ellen B.**
 - i. Stated that our licensure exam pass rate is so high that it doesn't necessarily justify increasing the grade requirement.
- g. **Teresa Chiavacci**
 - i. Stated that faculty should discuss this topic further.
 - ii. Asked about the comprehensive exam being increased to 78%.
- h. **Rebecca Kramer**
 - i. Stated that we would increase the comp exam requirement as well.
 - ii. Stated that only one student was unsuccessful with passing the comp this year on the first try.
- i. **Mary Hanlon**
 - i. Stated that this was the first year we did not give folder review after each semester.
 - ii. "Faculty has more opportunities to work with the students since we combined the labs."
- j. **Barb Heier**
 - i. Asked the new Committee members who are recent graduates about their thoughts on when to increase the percentage for the final exam weight.
- k. **Tony Fasulo**
 - i. Recommended doing it from the very beginning of the program to keep it consistent.
 - ii. Asked about equity regarding the linkage students not needing to be under the selective admissions program.
- l. **Mary Hanlon and Barb Heier**
 - i. Stated that there are 40 prospective students with 4.0 GPAs.
- m. **Norm Schlact**
 - i. "SPC students already stand out among others. It's not a bad thing to increase the grade percentage."
- n. The Board agreed to recommend increasing the minimum passing requirement from 75% to 78%.

V. **Program Clinical Rotation Hours Extended**

- a. **Rebecca Kramer**
 - i. Asked the Board if 5.5 weeks is a good amount of time for a clinical, that was the amount of time the program could extend without disruption to the curriculum.
 - ii. Described that students would start one week early in January and Trends' hours would be condensed.
- b. **Mary Ellen Sullivan**
 - i. Asked about whether or not the midterm CPI is required by CAPTE.
- c. **Mary Ellen B.**
 - i. Asked about combining the clinicals into two instead of three.

- ii. Asked about using the summative comments and weekly goals instead of having to complete the comments, etc. for each criterion at midterm because it is very time consuming, especially with short clinicals.
- d. **Mary Hanlon**
 - i. Discussed the Weekly Feedback Form.
- e. **Teresa Chiavacci**
 - i. “We would have to add the Weekly Feedback Form, etc. to the syllabi and keep it consistent.”
- f. **Mary Hanlon**
 - i. “Currently, we do not mandate the use of the Weekly Feedback Form.”
 - ii. Along with the other faculty, stated that it would be fine to use the Weekly Feedback Form at midterm and staple it to the CPI (instead of marking each individual criterion).
- g. **Mary Ellen Sullivan**
 - i. Stated that her clinic would be the pilot.

VI. Equipment Update/Electronic Documentation

- a. **Mary Hanlon**
 - i. The Program has purchased the new SD Biodex Balance System.
 - ii. We attended the inservice this week.
- b. **Barb Heier**
 - i. “By the spring of next year, we will have more experience with this piece of equipment so we can show this to you then.”
 - ii. Discussed WebPT and the possibility of using RehabOptima for student learning.
- c. **Kory Thomas**
 - i. Asked Marlon Alaan and Winston Biltz about their experiences with RehabOptima and if they felt it would be a good learning tool for the PTA.
 - ii. They agreed but stated that it is cumbersome for the PT when performing an evaluation. They stated that it would be good for the PTA.

VII. PT Labor Market Data

- a. **Rebecca Kramer**
 - i. Shared US Bureau of Labor Statistics regarding 2014 PTA salaries in the US and Florida (see handout). She asked if the mean hourly rate of \$28.50 and mean yearly salary of \$59,300 was accurate for experienced PTAs.
- b. **Mary Ellen Sullivan**
 - i. Described the salary that was offered from her clinic to one of our new graduates: \$49,500/yr or \$25.10/hr.

c. Marlon Alaam

- i.** Shared that there was a memo at the skilled nursery facility in which he is employed stating that more hours would be given to the PTAs on staff because the PTs should be doing evals only.
- ii.** Stated that he would now have to find his own work (ie- Med B patients) so he can have enough patient hours to maintain full-time benefits.

VIII. Announcements

a. Rebecca Kramer

- i.** Save the date, 9/24 for the Fall Advisory Committee event (see handout)- location has changed to the Seminole Campus this year
- ii.** Sandra Wise, PhD is now the Senior Director of CAPTE (Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education) She was previously the Provost of HEC at SPC prior to Dr. Nicotera.

b. Teresa Chiavacci

- i.** “It will be a nice change. She is very dynamic. She’s a nurse and has been a CAPTE site visitor for a long time.”

c. Norm Schlact

- i.** Announced that he will be opening up his own clinic in South Tampa in June. It will be ½ traditional PT, and ½ yoga/wellness, etc. The name of the company will be Sports and Wellness Physical Therapy.

IX. Meeting was Adjourned by Teresa Chiavacci at 8:50 pm.