

St. Petersburg College
Veterinary Technology Program
Advisory Committee Meeting
4/26/2012

Minutes

Attending: Tom Lane, Rhonda Valdez, Rich Flora, Tricia Gorham,
Stacey Wieder, Allison Sateren

Regrets: Gary Oswald, Duane Steward, Phillip Strauss

OLD BUSINESS

Topic	Discussion/Recommendations	Action
Review Nov 2, 2011 minutes	Move to approve Rhonda Valdez Second Allison Sateren	Approved
Enrollment	Discussed enrollment for AS and BAS programs. Interest in program continues to be very high – both on campus and online, AS and BAS.	Current enrollment is 119 campus and 155 online AS students, 115 BAS students. Have admitted 25 summer AS students with 10-15 more waiting for spring grades to post. Anticipate admitting 44 campus and 45 distance students for the fall.

Program Changes	Currently reviewing AS curriculum to make sure content is current and structure is best.	Faculty will review course content and sequence over summer.
Graduation	Will graduate 45 AS, 16 BAS, and 5 Certificate students on May 8.	
VTNE results	Discussed November/December 2011 VTNE results.	Continue to evaluate course content, teaching effectiveness, and test performance.
New building	We moved in to our new building on August 15.	Continue to work through few remaining items on punch list.
New VT programs	No new information on new programs.	Will contact other program directors to see if interested in getting together this summer.
Equipment purchases	Purchased cattle squeeze chute, IDEXX Laser-Cyte machine.	Will monitor equipment needs as continue to occupy new building.
Labor market data	Job announcements still coming in. Bureau of Labor Statistics continues to project a strong job outlook for veterinary technicians in Florida.	Continue to monitor job outlook.

Graduate placement	Placement continues to be 97% +. Stacey Wieder indicated graduates working at Blue Pearl are doing well and advancing in responsibilities. Several (5) new graduates have been hired by UF's teaching hospital.	Continue to monitor along with job market outlook and applications.
Graduate and Employer Surveys	Graduate and employer surveys indicate both groups are very satisfied with the programs.	Continue to monitor survey results.
Student Internships	New internship at Georgia Sea Turtle Center is being finalized. One of our graduates is the head technician at the organization.	Contact state diagnostic lab and fish and wildlife to see if interest is there.
BAS update	Enrollment continues to be strong Nutrition and Animal Science courses have 12-15 students applying to UF veterinary school each semester	
Next meeting	October 2012. Date to be determined.	

New Business

Marketing	Asked committee members to think of ways to market our programs.	Ongoing project
Emerging areas of veterinary medicine	As we review our curriculum it will be very important to incorporate new technology and knowledge our students will need to be successful.	Inform us about new developments so we can make sure they are covered in our program.
AVMA site visit	Site visit occurred December 7-9, 2011. Very good visit. Site	Reports were forwarded.

	<p>team made a couple of good suggestions for improvement is record-keeping. Trish and our IT specialist are developing a portfolio system that will make individual student records and submissions very easy to access and document.</p>	
<p>Student Debt</p>	<p>Concern over amount of students graduating from vet school – average \$150,000. Our students have an average of \$16,000 upon graduation. Rule of thumb is no more debt than first year salary. Average salary for our students is \$25,000 - \$29,000.</p>	<p>Continue to monitor, make students aware of consequences of debt.</p>
<p>New BS Degree</p>	<p>We are developing a new BS degree that combines our AS degree and the admission requirements for UF’s vet school. Upon graduation these students would be eligible to take the VTNE and be credentialed technicians and meet UF’s admission requirements. It will allow the students to have a career in veterinary medicine in case they are not admitted to vet school.</p>	<p>Once program is developed will go through approval process at SPC, then the state. Realistically is 2 years away from implementation if approved.</p>
<p>Student Exchange Program</p>	<p>Working with a veterinary technology program in Denmark to establish an exchange program for our students. Would occur next April and June. This summer they are exchanging students with Ridgewater College program in Minnesota</p>	<p>Will continue to develop exchange. Contact Ridgewater’s program director to see how it worked for them. Try</p>

		to find funding sources to decrease amount of cost for our students.
State limitations	The federal Department of Education is forcing states to enforce their requirements that regulate out-of-state schools offering online courses and programs. As a result, we are no longer offering our programs in Alabama, Arkansas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, and North Carolina.	Will continue to monitor situation.