

**SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE  
SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES AND PUBLIC SERVICE  
ANIMAL HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2018, 6:30 PM, P-308**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jay Duchnick, RN – Public member  
Laura Fink, RVT – SeaCoast Veterinary Group  
Carl Graner, DVM – Retired DVM  
Nan Hogetts, RVT – Hish Valley Veterinary Hospital  
Sandi Johnson – Department of Animal Control  
Kim Lasley – Public Member  
Deanna Lasley – MAHTSA Representative  
Carol Otjens, RVT  
Meredith Reid, RVT – San Diego Zoo Safari Park  
Kimberley Williams, RVT – San Diego Zoo Safari Park

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Jeaneal Davis, DVM, Program Director  
David Johnson, RVT – Adjunct  
Bebe Jovanovich – Adjunct  
Shelee Lyon, RVT – Adjunct  
Dana McNabb, RVT – Adjunct  
Carol Novosad – Instructional Lab Tech  
Cindy Purnell – SDCCD Instructional Assistant  
Tina Recalde, DPT – Dean School of Health Sciences and Public Service  
Kim Williams, RVT

- **CALL TO ORDER (6:06pm):**
  - The meeting was called to order by Dr. Jeaneal Davis, Program Director
  
- **INTRODUCTIONS (6:07pm):**
  - Dr Davis introduced herself as the new Program Director after which committee members and staff introduced themselves
  - Committee members were asked to update their contact information on the roster that was sent around.
  
- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES (6:16PM)**
  - Minutes of the last official meeting held on Tuesday, February 21, 2018 were approved as written. Carol Otjens, RVT moved and Shelee Lyon, RVT seconded the motion. Passed.
  
- **CONTINUING BUSINESS (6:17pm):**
  - State of the Program
    - Faculty and Staff: We currently have 12 adjunct and 1 full time faculty members along with 1 Instructional Lab Tech and an attending veterinarian.
    - Students: First year: 24 students; Second year: 22 students
    - Resident Animal Population has remained steady and currently includes a wide variety of animal species for our students to get experience with: equine, rabbits,

goats, alpacas, pigeons, chickens, red tail hawk, turkey vulture, barn owl, screech owl, kookaburras, ferret, mice, rats. Dogs and cats are sourced through rescues.

- The advisory Committee recommended we expose students to pet rabbits, parrots, snakes, lizards, tortoises, iguanas – all of which are seen routinely in private practices.
- The Microbiology/Immunology class held over the summer continues to be a problem. Attrition continues to be high in the course.
  - There is no scheduled Lab for this class which contributes to students learning the class material. The lab techniques were demonstrated in ANHL 125L which is taught in the Spring semester. The gap between the Lecture and Lab causes a problem with retention.
  - Dean Recalde recommended revising the lecture course and adding a 1-unit lab. There are options on how to structure lecture and lab hours for the best benefit to student learning.
  - Advisory members reported that microbiology is not being done in practices much anymore. Students do need to understand infection control and theory but maybe don't need to go as in-depth as it is being taught.
- Facilities: We received funding through Perkins Grants for new animal enclosures including pen upgrades or replacements for most of our animal population. We are also working with the construction class on campus who built all weather covers for our dog runs and are currently constructing a new storage shed.
- Perkins Grant: In addition to the new animal enclosures we also received funding for dental sensor devices, laptop computers for the dental radiology machines, a grooming tub, clippers, heated surgery recovery cages and cage grates.
- **COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM REVIEW (6:34pm):**
  - A complete review of the program is done every 6 years. It involves taking a deep look into the program operations, statistical information, long and short-term goals for the program, wants and needs. Dr. Davis will be taking a close look at student success where we seem to falter a little bit. She will be looking at possibly adding a math and medical terminology pre-requisite so students are better prepared to enter the program.
- **AVMA ACCREDITATION (7:16pm)**
  - The most recent change in the AVMA accreditation standards came out in July, 2018 and include several areas we will have to take a closer look at including a new student-teacher ratio for laboratory classes
  - There is also a requirement for 1 RVT FTE. Standards require that the RVT's are graduates from AVMA approved schools. This may require us to look at bringing on some new RVT instructors as many of our adjunct graduated from Mesa when it was not AVMA approved.
  - A question was raised by the advisory committee on hiring full time instructors instead of adjunct. Dean Recalde explained that our program is expensive to run because of the small class sizes. It would be easier to justify additional full time instructors if we can keep enrollment numbers up. Program Review will give us the opportunity to recommend FTE because of the new student-teacher ratio requirement among other things.
  - AVMA accreditation timeline: Self-study will be completed over the summer. It has been taking approximately 1 year for CVTEA site visits once the application has been submitted.

- **NEW BUSINESS (7:27)**

- New College Funding Formula: Based on student enrollment and if students are in class 70% is based on student enrollment and 30% is based on equity and student success. Tutoring in our field is lacking on campus so improvement needs to occur in order to ensure student success.
  - In the future we might look at offering smaller classes offering Certificates of Completion and Certificates of Achievement in specialty areas such as dentistry or equine medicine. We would aim for 30-35 students per course. Courses of this type would help with program funding and increasing FTE.
  - We can also run CE programs through Contract Education. Funds would go directly into a fiduciary fund to help support the program.
  - Advisory Committee members recommended additional education in phlebotomy and catheter insertion suggestions our students were lacking in these skills when going out for Work Experience.
- MCAHTSA Events-students are getting motivated for some possible fund raisers. Some ideas include a Christmas fundraiser, open house, fast food restaurant, doggy street fair (nail trims) Funds go towards graduation party, VTNE registration and a school gift.
  - Outreach Event: Students participated in a Fall Festival at St. Didacus Church in Normal Heights by presenting a Petting Zoo.
  - The Advisory Committee suggested other possible fund raising events students could participate in including Surf Castle and the Silver Bay Kennel Club.
- Name Change: We are looking at changing the name of the program from Animal Health Technology to Veterinary Technology. Dave Johnson is researching other program names throughout the country.
- Information Sessions: Advisory members inquired if we could expand the current Information Sessions to better educate prospective students of the rigor of the program and the career itself. This will hopefully allow more prepared students to enter and decrease attrition. Could current students come and give their perspective?
- Advisory members suggested we include a job shadow as a condition for application. There is a concern that there are not enough practices that will allow people to shadow. Both PTA and Rad Tech require applicants to do a job shadow with it being the applicant's responsibility to find a site to accept them. Ms. Fawcett might be able to assist applicants in finding a job shadowing opportunity.
  - Another suggestion was to do individual counseling sessions with applicants to make sure they understand the career and what it entails.
  - The Dean reminded us that Title 5 prohibits us from "ranking" applicants in any way.
    - The Nursing programs have a special agreement with the state of California that excludes them from Title 5. This was done because of the shortage of RN's in the state. This allows them to have different admission requirements than other programs can have.
  - Another suggestion was having applicants interview an RVT currently working in the field. The Program Director would come up with a list of questions that must be asked and answered. Applicants would be required to turn in a written document during the application process.

- Could a video be made that applicants could view on-line showing what the profession is and how rigorous the program of study is?
- Kim reported that 50% attrition is not unusual for Veterinary Technology programs throughout the US and Canada.
  - Low pay continues to be a detriment in the profession causing people to change career choices. 2 large veterinary groups in Northern California recently unionized.
- **NEXT MEETING:**
  - Meetings will be held in Spring and Fall of 2019. Dates to be determined.
- **ADJOURNMENT (7:54pm)**