



## Veterinary Technology Advisory Meeting Notes

**Date:** November 1, 2021  
**Meeting Place:** Remote via Zoom

**Called to order:** 6:30 p.m.                      **Chair(s):** Erin Krier                      **Note Taker:** Erin Krier

**Council Members Present:** Kerri Burns, Shelley Rice, Jesslyn Tilley, Amy Rice, Dr. Karen Vagnoni

**Council Members Absent:** Erin Zobel, Dr. Brenda Forsythe, Rebecca Gamboa, Dr. Katie Marrie, Dr. Helen Harris, Linda Metaxas

**Ex-officio Member Present:** Dr. Sean Abel

### Agenda No. 1      Update on Full-time Faculty/Coordinator Hiring Status

- Discussion:**
- Following the retirement of Dr. Richard Seidenberg in May 2020, the hiring process to fill the vacant position was put on hold due to the disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.
  - The date for resuming the hiring process remains undetermined and has been delayed due to some contract details that require clarification.
  - Erin Krier (Agriculture program instructor/coordinator) is temporarily fulfilling all coordinator responsibilities until the position can be permanently filled.
  - Dedicated part-time faculty are currently instructing all courses.

**Action:** none

**Deadline:** n/a    **Responsibility:** n/a

### Agenda No. 2      Additional Course Needs

- Discussion:**
- Erin Krier solicited recommendations for expanding classes that can serve Vet Tech students for specialized experience that can also benefit AHC animal science students who are pursuing studies in the Agriculture program. Allan Hancock College has been approached by Cal Poly State University Animal Science professors interested in seeing increased offerings for transfer into their Animal Science program and there could be some courses that would benefit Vet Tech and Animal Science students alike.
  - An in-depth discussion started following presentation of a list of potential options for additional course offerings: Veterinary Workplace Safety, Large Animal Medicine and Nursing, Exotic and Wildlife Medicine, Introductory Animal Nutrition and Feeding, Anatomy and Physiology of Farm Animals, and Animal Welfare and Handling.
  - All members of the committee contributed significant insight into the conversation – from the perspectives of the industry, of transfer to university, and of current VT program faculty.
  - All current instructional faculty agreed that one of the major challenges of the program is a stark contrast between two distinct groups of students: those who have clinical veterinary experience and those who have never engaged in a clinical setting but did meet the requirements for acceptance into the program. This poses a challenge when some students in the current VT courses already know basic laboratory techniques while others have to be taught every step from the most simple lab process that needs to be understood before they can move onto the actual lesson material. Consequently, the committee suggested that an optional Introductory Clinical Laboratory Techniques course be established to provide this basic knowledge to those students who enter the program with no clinical or laboratory experience. This will allow the existing courses to run more smoothly and concentrate on the course content rather than basic preparatory skills. This course could be mandatory for students who do not have clinical experience and may be offered





seems to be a lack of interest in students applying for them.

- Faculty discussed some of the barriers to students responding to those opportunities.
- Jesslyn Tilley suggested that the bigger issue for the program as a whole is to develop established internship relationships with local partners to bridge that gap for students in the program who need to earn their work hours in a clinical setting.
- Amy Rice mentioned that she has two clinics that would work for such a program, and Jesslyn Tilley echoed that sentiment regarding her work at the county animal shelter.
- Jesslyn Tilley informed the committee that a requirement of the program used to be to work a certain number of hours of either paid or unpaid time in a clinical setting while taking the VT program courses, and those numbers were logged by the program coordinator to ensure compliance with that requirement. She suggested that we consider bringing back that requirement.
- Amy Rice agreed with adding this program requirement.
- Kerri Burns suggested reaching out to Dr. Marrie regarding internships and job openings.
- Jesslyn Tilley suggested phrasing volunteer needs at the shelter as unpaid internships to meet this program requirement.
- Erin Krier mentioned Cooperative Work Experience for college credit and there was broad agreement that this should be considered to add as a program requirement.
- Shelley Rice mentioned that this would be a good way to fill unpaid industry internship needs while helping students get necessary experience.
- It will be important to develop formal internship agreements with agencies and clinics in both San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties.
- Amy Rice has two hospitals in Arroyo Grande and Jesslyn Tilley has connections with county shelters where these official partnerships might be established.
- Dr. Abel mentioned that we will need to review required paperwork and liability forms.
- Dr. Vagnoni suggested that the internship program begin in the summer for incoming students to get some hands-on experience prior to starting the program in the fall.

**Action:** Follow up on the option of adding current, clinical work experience as a requirement of the program.

**Deadline:** n/a

**Responsibility:** Erin Krier

**Agenda No. 6      Program Data**

- Erin Krier presented some program data from the college’s Institutional Effectiveness databases.
  - 28 students were accepted into the program for 2021-2022
- Discussion:**
- 3 applicants have already been accepted into the program for 2022-2023
  - Historical award data was shared that shows that awards have fluctuated since the 2014-2015 academic year, but the past two years have seen a steady rise in program completion.

**Action:** None

**Deadline:** n/a

**Responsibility:** n/a

