



Veterinary Technology Advisory Meeting Notes

Date: March 7, 2022
Meeting Place: Remote via Zoom

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

Council Members Present: Dr. Katie Marrie, Kerri Burns, Linda Metaxas, Amy Rice

Council Members Absent: Erin Zobel, Dr. Brenda Forsythe, Rebecca Gamboa, Dr. Helen Harris, Shelley Rice, Jesslyn Tilley

Ex-officio Member Absent: Dr. Sean Abel

Agenda No. 1 Report on AHC FFA Field Day

- Discussion:**
- Erin Krier shared a recap of the FFA Field Day that was hosted at Allan Hancock College. This event was part of the agriculture program and the outreach to high schools to showcase the agriculture-related pathways offered at AHC.
 - An overview of the Veterinary Science contest was presented. It was a state-qualifying competition which drew students from 14 high schools across the state of California. The contest includes four activities: veterinary tool ID, breed and parasite ID, knowledge test, and 3 practicum rooms with hands-on skills.
 - AHC Vet Tech faculty assisted with preparations and judging of the contest. Student volunteers also helped with all aspects of the event.
 - This was a good opportunity to expose high school students to the AHC Vet Tech program.

Action: none

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

Agenda No. 2 Full-time Vet Tech Faculty Update

- Discussion:**
- The job opening for the full-time vet tech faculty will be posted soon. The job description is being finalized and applications will soon be accepted.
 - The intention is to have the position filled for Fall 2022.

Action: Erin Krier will share update with committee when job is officially posted.

Deadline: n/a **Responsibility:** Erin Krier

Agenda No. 3 New Vet Tech Courses

- Discussion:**
- Erin Krier described the two new courses that were developed and recently launched, following the recommendations of the advisory committee.
 - VT 102 – Introduction to Animal Feeding & Nutrition will be a transferable course, intended to articulate to Cal Poly State University, SLO, for Animal Science majors. The class will be open to any AHC student and is not limited to those who have been accepted into the Vet Tech program. This class will fulfill a lower-division animal science requirement for students wishing to transfer. It will also be an elective option for Vet Tech students seeking to gain this more specialized and valuable knowledge. Additionally, it will be added as an elective course for the A.S. and Certificate in Agricultural Science.
 - VT 308 – Introductory Laboratory Techniques, intended to address the advisory committee/faculty concern about certain students who qualified for entrance into the Vet Tech program and yet have no clinical experience and are therefore lacking in basic laboratory skills.



This lack of laboratory knowledge has been an issue as the classes are designed assuming some basic understanding of these techniques. This class will only be available to students who are in the Vet Tech program. This should be an elective, and not suggested for students who have work experience in the clinical setting and have already mastered these skills.

- Erin Krier asked for feedback about how to best incorporate these two new courses into the certificate program. When should these courses be offered? Should they be required?
- A discussion followed and the consensus from the committee members was that VT 308 should be strongly recommended, but not required, for students who do not have clinical work experience. The committee agreed that using standard laboratory equipment is a skill that is often lacking in new employees and is essential for the job.
- Amy Rice mentioned that the state of California will be revisiting the discussion about the alternate route veterinary technology program. Therefore, she suggested that VT 308 be highly recommended until changes in the state requirements are established.
- Kerri Burns questioned if there might be a way for knowledgeable students to receive some credit for participating in the VT 308 class as mentors for the inexperienced students.
- All members agreed that these new courses should be electives and not required at this point.
- There was some discussion that VT 308 might be offered in the summer to prepare inexperienced students for the laboratory classes and it could be listed as an advisory for one of the fall classes to encourage students to choose to take it.
- Linda Metaxas questioned the ability to bring animals into the classroom when needed in order to get the hands-on experience that might be required in the future for program accreditation.
- Dr. Marrie suggested that we remain open to evaluations of the courses from students and use that feedback to determine if the new course(s) should become requirements in the future.
- Erin Krier will incorporate committee suggestions into the program changes, adding the new courses as electives.

Action: CurriQuNet changes for program to add new courses as electives.

Deadline: ASAP

Responsibility:

Erin Krier

Agenda No. 4 Vet Tech Office & Storage Space

- The ongoing challenge that the program continues to face is the lack of dedicated instructional and storage space. Due to a change in space needs in M-207, Erin Krier moved all of the VT program supplies to Building W.

Discussion:

- The original hope was that the space in this room could be used for vet tech instruction, but it turned out that this room is not allowed to be used for instructional space at this time.
- Linda Metaxas mentioned the prior plan to use the previous MESA center room in Building W, which might become available once the covid testing site is no longer housed in that room.

Action: None

Deadline: n/a

Responsibility: n/a

Agenda No. 5 Externship Opportunity with VCA

- Erin Krier shared an externship agreement presented by VCA, where students could enter into a formal, paid work experience to begin earning the work hours required to qualify to take the RVT exam.

Discussion:

- The committee was asked to provide input, but seeing the length and complexity of the agreement, Erin Krier will email it to all committee members and program dean, Dr. Abel, for a



careful review before a commitment is made.

- Linda Metaxas suggested that this program would fit well with the Cooperative Work Experience (CWE) program – earning college units while also gaining work experience hours.
- Erin Krier reminded the committee about the previous advisory suggestion to include CWE as a requirement built into the program to ensure students are getting the necessary work experience.
- There was discussion about making CWE required or offering it as an elective. Amy Rice brought up a concern about getting students connected with an employer if there are not sufficient openings in local clinics.
- Erin Krier suggested adding a section for elective courses, which could include options of the two new courses and another option for CWE.
- Linda Metaxas suggested that the total units required for the certificate could be increased to include selection of one elective option.
- The committee agreed that making one elective required, which would include options for either one of the two new courses or work experience, would be the best way to incorporate these courses into the program.
- Kerri Burns mentioned that volunteer opportunities with Santa Barbara Humane are becoming more widely available with the addition of a new volunteer coordinator. Dr. Marrie agreed that there are possibilities for establishing this relationship.
- Kerri Burns has experience reviewing contracts and would like to have a careful consideration of the contract stipulations, which she and Dr. Marrie will review.

Action: Addition of elective section to program requirements to include CWE option. Email VCA contract to committee members for review.

Deadline: ASAP **Responsibility:** Erin Krier

Agenda No. 6 2022-2023 Enrollment

- Discussion:**
- Erin Krier shared the current enrollment numbers for the upcoming academic year.
 - 10 new students have been accepted into the program, as applications have been trickling in.
 - 1 student who completed her fall courses this year will complete the spring course series in spring 2023 due to circumstances which prevented her from completing all coursework this year.

Action: None

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

Agenda No. 7 Program Promotion and Outreach

- Discussion:**
- Erin Krier shared links to promotional materials – flyers and video – which can be shared digitally to promote the program.
 - Erin Zobel was going to share this program information with the Mid-Coast Veterinary Medical



Association (MCVMA) per the recommendation of the committee in the past, but the status of this is unknown.

- Amy Rice will share this information with MCVMA.

Action: Erin Krier can put hard copies of the flyers in faculty mailboxes or distribute them to advisory members as needed

Deadline: n/a **Responsibility:** Erin Krier

Agenda No. 7 Additional Committee Feedback

Discussion: • None.

Action: None needed.

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

Reports: Important Dates and Follow-up

- Next advisory committee meeting will be determined by new faculty
- Expect a Fall 2022 meeting around early November
- Kerri Burns offered to host the in-person meeting in the conference room at the Santa Maria campus of Santa Barbara Humane