



Veterinary Technology Advisory Meeting Notes

Date: May 12, 2023
Meeting Place: Remote via Zoom

Called to order: 6:00 p.m. **Chair:** Amy Rice **Note Taker:** Amy Rice

Council Members Present: Dr. Katie Marrie, Dr. Brenda Forsythe, Kerri Burns, Linda Metaxas, Jesslyn Tilley RVT, Shelley Rice RVT

Council Members Absent: Rebecca Gamboa, Dr. Helen Harris, Julie Yuhás RVT

Ex-officio Member Absent: Dr. Sean Abel

Agenda No. 1 Full Time Faculty position update

- Discussion:**
- Amy Rice shared that she has been hired to fill the full time, tenure-track faculty instructor and program coordinator position for the veterinary technology program at Allan Hancock College.
 - Each member of the advisory committee shared their congratulations and gave Amy a warm welcome.
 - Amy Rice thanked each committee member for their continued and steadfast support for the veterinary technology program; many committee members have been involved since the inception of the program, and are very strongly supportive of its continuation.

Action: none

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

Agenda No. 2 Report on AHC FFA Field Day

- Discussion:**
- Amy Rice 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, including veterinary technology.
 - An overview of the Veterinary Science contest was presented. It was a state qualifying competition which drew students from 10 high schools across California and brought 13 teams to the veterinary science competition. The contest included four activities: veterinary tool identification, breed and parasite identification, a general knowledge test and 3 practicum rooms with the contestants demonstrating hands-on skills.
 - AHC Veterinary Technology faculty Amy Rice, Jesslyn Tilley and Julie Yuhás assisted with preparations and judging of the contest. Student volunteers also helped with all aspects of the event.
 - This was a great opportunity to expose high school students to the AHC Veterinary Technology program specifically and veterinary medicine in general.

Action: none

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

Agenda No. 3 Career Day report

- Discussion:**
- Amy Rice shared that an informational booth for the Veterinary Technology Program was included in the Allan Hancock Career Day for local junior high and high school students. It was very



Action: none

Deadline: n/a

Responsibility: n/a

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. No dedicated classroom space exists for the veterinary technology program, and storage space currently exists in two closets in Building W, and a cupboard in the physics lab hallway. This necessitates set-up and break-down of any training materials/training manikins and moving them across campus, often from ground level storage to second floor classrooms before and after each each night class.

- The original hope was that the space in W-24 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.

Discussion: • 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, however Amy Rice shared that she was informed that this is currently being used for the nursing program.

- Linda Metaxas spoke to the history of the program, stating it was a big priority to find space for this program and that a plan was in place for instructional space at one time, but that priority disappeared as people retired or personnel changed within the college administration. She stated that she feels “we are starting from scratch” in relation to this challenge and that we need to keep informing administration of the program’s needs. Amy Rice stated that the needs will be addressed in the Program Review done each year.

Action: Ongoing discussions

Deadline: ASAP

Responsibility: Amy Rice/Sean Abel

Agenda No. 5 2023-2024 Enrollment and Program numbers

- Amy Rice shared that 22 students were accepted into the 2023-2024 program, with one additional student returning in the spring semester to finish one class for her certificate. She also shared that 17 students in the current cohort will complete the program this month.

Discussion: • Jesslyn Tilley asked if the program was open enrollment if students are only taking a few classes, and Amy Rice shared that students had to apply to the program, but once accepted they were able to register for any of the program courses until completion as needed. She also asked if the program courses were currently being taught in person or on-line. Amy Rice stated all courses other than VT 302 were in person classes.

Action: none

Deadline: n/a

Responsibility: n/a

Agenda No. 6 Program Direction

Discussion: • Linda Metaxas asked if DE instruction was a possibility in the future that might help the strain on students that are working full time, taking all of the program courses at night and commuting to the college. Amy Rice shared that many veterinary technology programs do offer online instruction and coursework, but that program would likely need to break into an in-person veterinary assisting



curriculum and DE curriculum aimed at those students with full time veterinary hospital jobs, planning to take the VTNE. Jesslyn and Amy both discussed their challenges trying to instruct to a class in which the experience level varies from little to no experience handling animals, to many years of in hospital veterinary and animal husbandry experience.

- Amy Rice shared that some veterinary technology programs provide vaccination clinics to employees of the college that allow their students to practice basic skills. Kerri and Dr. Marrie offered to work with Amy to determine ways in which Santa Barbara Humane can help AHC Veterinary Technology program students can get the hands-on experience they need. Jesslyn Tilley will be a contact at the County of Santa Barbara to help facilitate work experience opportunities at their facility also.

Action: Ongoing discussion

Deadline: n/a **Responsibility:** Amy Rice

Agenda No. 7 Program Promotion and Outreach

Discussion: • Amy Rice has been working with several local hospitals to set up work experience in addition to doing outreach events.

Action: Amy Rice will continue to promote the program with local hospitals and MCVMA, and continue participation in outreach events that increase exposure of the Veterinary Technology Program at Allan Hancock College.

Deadline: ongoing **Responsibility:** Amy Rice

Agenda No. 8 Additional Committee Feedback

Discussion: none

Action: none

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

Reports: Important Dates and Follow-up

- Fall 2023 Veterinary Technology Advisory Committee Meeting --- tbd, likely November 2023