



Veterinary Technology Advisory Meeting Notes

Date: May 14, 2024
Meeting Place: M211 & 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, Linda Metaxas, Jesslyn Tilley RVT, Shelley Rice RVT, Vanessa Lopez RVT, Kristi Bixby, Lori Garrard

Council Members Absent: Dr. Helen Harris, Julie Yuhas RVT

Ex-officio Member Absent: Dr. Sean Abel

Agenda No. 1. Welcome and introduction of new members

Discussion:

- Amy Rice welcomed committee members and shared introductions of each with their role in the community and committee.
- Amy introduced new committee members: Lori Garrard, a veterinary hospital manager from Lompoc Veterinary Clinic; Vanessa Lopez, RVT, Director of Veterinary Services from Santa Barbara Humane; and Kristi Bixby, an RVT-eligible former student of the program and current Clinic Manager at Santa Barbara Humane.
- Each member of the advisory committee gave Lori, Vanessa and Kristi 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 in 2013 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 high schools across California. 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, and Julie Yuhas 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 well received by the students. Many inquiries into the Veterinary Technology Program have been due to this specific outreach event.
 - Amy Rice invited all committee members with a business to join the Hancock Career Days. Jesslyn Tilley, RVT manned a booth for Santa Barbara County Animal Services that was very well received. It would benefit the program as well as help prospective students meet with contacts from several different areas of veterinary medicine.

Action: none

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

Agenda No. 4 Vet Tech Classroom & Storage Space

- Discussion:**
- 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.
 - Management and facilities are aware of the need and discussion is ongoing.
 - Linda Metaxes she thought the program was going to utilize the old STEM center, but that is now being used as a skills lab for the LVN Program, or the old MESA center, which is not classroom worthy at this time.

Action: Ongoing discussions

Deadline: ASAP **Responsibility:** Amy Rice/Sean Abel

Agenda No. 5 2024-2025 Enrollment and Program numbers

- Discussion:**
- Amy Rice shared that 28 students were accepted into the 2024-2025 program. She also shared that 16 students in the current cohort will complete the program this month.
 - Amy Rice also shared that VT 300, Introduction to Veterinary Technology, has been responsible for an approximate 25% of applicants for the next cohort of students. The course has filled quickly the past three semesters and continues to garner interest from students curious about the Veterinary Technology Program.
 - Amy Rice also shared that word of mouth from former students has been indicated as to how new program inquiries have discovered the program.

Action: none

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

Agenda No. 6 Equipment Upgrades

- Discussion:**
- Amy Rice shared that much of the program equipment had been in disrepair, and she has been updating items to make them more useable. Budget constraints limit what can be done, so it has



been an ongoing project.

- Strong Workforce Funds have been obtained by Tom Lamica (AHC Dean), and several new equipment items will be added to the program during Round 8 of funding. Items will include new venipuncture manikins, vascular manikins, surgical simulation program and dental training manikins. Some new anatomy learning subscriptions will be added as well.

Action: Ongoing discussion

Deadline: n/a

Responsibility: Amy
Rice, Tom Lamica

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. Lori Garrard, Dr. Forsythe, Santa Barbara Humane and Santa Barbara County Animal Services are open to hosting WEE students. Central Coast Pet Emergency and both VCA hospitals in Arroyo Grande are as well.

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

Members Brenda Forsythe, DVM and Shelley Rice, RVT offered to promote the Veterinary Technology Program at the Mid-Coast Veterinary Medical Association meetings that Amy is generally not able to attend due to class conflicts.

Action: Jesslyn Tilley visited the VT 306 class this semester and shared her experiences in general, emergency and shelter medicine. She and Amy had worked on setting up a volunteer pool that will be managed by Jesslyn at SBCAS and offer valuable experience to program students. Approximately 75% of the class gave their information to Jesslyn showing interest that night. So far, 25% of the current cohort have participated in the training program. We hope to see a similar interest for Santa Barbara Humane volunteer opportunities.

Deadline: ongoing

Responsibility: Amy Rice, Brenda Forsythe,
DVM and Shelley Rice, RVT,
Jesslyn Tilley, RVT

Agenda No. 8 Additional Committee Feedback

Discussion: Dr. Forsythe commented that a few Veterinary Technology students that had been placed in her hospital for work experience in the past, on occasion, had been difficult to work with or lacked motivation. With the addition of the WEE elective requirement, we discussed that now work experience sites should expect these students to be actively participating, and if not, they would not receive a passing grade for their WEE course. Amy Rice also stated that if this situation occurs, to please contact her and she and Maria Ramirez in the Work experience office can help direct the student as needed. Dr. Marrie added that a student that may not fit in one WEE site might find a better fit in a different site. Amy Rice added that she does communicate to her students that different hospitals or areas of medicine offer different experiences and that she encourages her students to try different sites to find their "type" of medicine. Jesslyn Tilley added that she explains



to WEE students that if there is a problem or lack of motivation during their time with her, she will not give them a passing grade. Amy Rice stated that she hopes that positive outcomes will occur and that host WEE sites can use this as a “long interview” to gain new employees.

Action: None at this time

Deadline: n/a

Responsibility: n/a

Reports: Important Dates and Follow-up

- Fall 2024 Veterinary Technology Advisory Committee Meeting --- tbd, likely November 2024