Veterinary Technician

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES


1. Call to order – the meeting was officially started at 6:38 pm

2. Roll call –

Members Present: Ingrid Oravetz, LVT (representing shelter medicine); Joan Pedersen (public member); Julie McMahon, LVT, VTS (Dentistry) (representing dental specialty); Kim Kyler, LVT (representing companion animal medicine); Laurie Spencer (representing wildlife rehabilitation); Erin Rasmusson, DVM (representing companion animal medicine); and Sarah Aikin (representing the Class of 2014).

Members Absent: Andrew Leone (Representing the Class of 2011); Heather Nichols (representing industry); Mike Teglas, DVM (representing large animal medicine and UNR); and Rebecca England (representing the Class of 2012). These members had previous engagements and could not attend.

Guests Present: John Hasenau, DVM, DACLAM (Vet Tech Program Part Time Instructor) and Michele Noreen, DVM (Vet Tech Program Coordinator)

3. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved (Kim K./Erin R.)

4. Coordinator report (Michele) – has communicated with Creacy Box-Bearfield, previous member and chair. Creacy has decided not to continue serving on the Advisory Committee. We are in need of a new chairperson – Julie expressed interest in the position, Ingrid supported Julie for the role, everyone else was in agreement. The program has 11 full time students in the second year class (did let the problem student go – discussed last spring) and has one part time student in the second year. Sarah indicated that the Class of 2014 is much more cohesive this semester. The program started with 16 students in the first year class, have lost 2 to medical issues. We have a few first years who are struggling in all classes.

5. Second year students are on directed clinical practice on Thursdays – they are going to Advanced Pet Care, Animal Emergency Center, Baring Blvd, Comstock, Eye Care for Animals, Kings Row Pet Hospital, NV Dept of Agriculture, Sierra Vet Specialists (surgery and dentistry), and Southwest Veterinary Hospital. We did not have Lakeside nor Pyramid this Fall. We need to consider additional sites for next year. Michele will investigate Kreature Komforts and Lone Mountain in Carson. Dr. Rasmussen commented that she doesn’t see the students as Dr. Sargent is in surgeries on Thursdays. She recommends tailoring hours to the hospital’s need/preference. Julie also likes the idea of tailoring the schedule to the hospital’s needs so that students can do rounds with her - also maybe having two students at a time at Sierra Vet Specialists is a burden. Also she commented that some students do not interact as much as they should. How to get students to be more assertive? Sarah mentioned if a student doesn’t have much previous experience, they do not get to do much on rotations typically. Ingrid suggested a rotation at a vaccine clinic to get more hands on experience. It was also discussed that the students should be evaluated by each facility. The instructor for directed clinical practice will make a student list with pictures for ID purposes and have a scale that can be used to assess student performance for that day.

6. There was then an update from what we had discussed previously as far as non-traditional LVTs – Erin and Michele met with Dr. Ron Sandoval in May – the conclusion was that it is not the right time to address the State Board to discontinue licensure of people with a Bachelor’s degree and practical experience, there are not enough people in support of change (leaders and practice owners). The focus of the program should be on continuing to increase exposure of students to the Board – we started attendance at the January Reno meeting as of 2013. Will change come as we continue to produce competent grads? It was mentioned that the Board does seem to be looking more closely at the backgrounds of the challengers (non-traditional) – looking for degrees in Animal Science or Biology and not liberal arts, etc.
CE lectures – update for 2013, planning for 2014 – the program held 3 CE lectures in 2013, 1.5 CE credits each – February with Dr. Koehm, $560 collected from 28 attendees – April with Dr. Steele, $460 collected from 23 attendees – October with Dr. Rink, $500 collected from 25 attendees (techs and vets). Heather contributed the funding for food for the CE attendees with her Patterson budget and also obtained additional funding from manufacturer representative’s budgets. On the CE invitations it says “Money supports the vet tech program.” The program is using some of the funds collected from attendees for payment to part timers for extra work and for a gift for Comstock as they are contributing greatly to the large animal class this Fall semester.

CE for 2014. LVTs have indicated they would like to have more information on critical care. Have heard from Creacy at SVS, January they are doing dental labs for vets, in Feb they are doing a “winter technician symposium.” Scheduled for Feb 22 and 23. Topics include dentistry with Julie, anesthesia with Creacy, ophthalmology with Dr. Steele, cardiology with Dr. Hosking, rehabilitation with Dr. Gleason and Laura, and surgical nursing with Miranda. Julie corrected this and said Dr. Steele cannot attend so they will do a suturing lab instead. It was agreed that the program should continue to offer lectures with 2-3 credits of offerings from us. It was noted that Michelle Wagner from the NVMA also expressed an interest in partnering with us for an event.

The program tentatively heard about a Foundation Grant approval to purchase dental parts with grant money (3 scaler tips that Julie indicated we needed). Michele spoke to Michelle Wagner and Dr. Tony Luchetti from the NVMA about the remaining vet tech funds - $9600. The NVMA was requesting ideas for spending of the remainder of the money that was collected when the program first began – Dr. Luchetti is going to the Board in February with ideas. We discussed a digital dental sensor, an ultrasound unit, clickers for in class participation, and the possibility of money for the teaching budget. Erin asked if some of the money could also help with the expenses of offering CE. Michele will follow up with Tony on this idea also.

7. Arrange date for next meeting – Michele will send an e-mail in the Spring semester.

8. Adjournment – the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.