



**MINNESOTA WEST COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
2014/2015 MLT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 27, 2014, 3:00 P.M. Room 142**

The MWCTC Medical Laboratory Technician Advisory Board meeting was held October 27, 2014 at the Luverne Center. Meeting began at 3:00 p.m.

Members Present: Rita Miller (MLT Program Director), Erin Schreader (Sanford Hospital Luverne & adjunct faculty), Melissa Black (new adjunct faculty), Staci Kalass (MLT current student), Jane Polz (Windom Area Hospital), ReJean Knobloch (Rock Rapids, IA), Debra Dummer (Redwood Area Hospital), Ann Mills (MWCTC Chemistry & Biology instructor), and Julie Stevens (Pipestone County Medical Center).

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**TOPIC:** Equipment

**DISCUSSION:** Bloodbanking: Rita reported that the gel system for bloodbanking arrived in July.

Chemistry: Erin commented on the chemistry analyzers. She stated the Ortho Clinical Diagnostic's VITROS DT-60 chemistry systems are going to be discarded due to the expense and discontinuation of supplies and service. We received notice regarding the discontinuance of service, parts, and support of the VITROS systems ending on December 31, 2015. Beyond 2014, they will sell reagents and consumables until all inventories are depleted.

Currently we have three Core Pointe 180 Analyzers. Rita contacted several other MLT programs and this is the same analyzers they are using. SDSU uses I-STAT. The benefit of the Core Pointe 180 analyzer is that the student has to pipette reagents and samples which aids in their pipetting skills.

Coagulation: Rita reported that she only has one MLA 750 that works. Erin has a Stago she will donate to the college.

CLOSED

**TOPIC:** 60/120 waiver

**DISCUSSION:** MLT program waiver for 72 credits is pending approval from MNSCU. Rita has developed new curriculum. See new business below

**ONGOING BUSINESS:**

**TOPIC:** Approval of Budget

**DISCUSSION:** Budget was approved as written. See attachment of budget ONGOING

**TOPIC: Marketing Update**

**DISCUSSION:** Enrollment is down throughout college and MNSCU system. Marketing and recruiting efforts have been increased. Rita mentioned the following:

1. MLT brochure: has been updated and copies were sent to area hospital labs
2. Career Expo: Rita participated at the Career Expo in Worthington on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. There were over 400 high school students in attendance. Callie Nelson, MLT student participated in the Career Expo at SMSU in Marshall where there were over 500 to 600 high school students
3. MLT Window Clings: Purchased 125 window clings for students to place on back window of their cars.
4. Facebook ad: Spent \$125 for Facebook Ad that pops up when people are on facebook.
5. Scrub Camp: Scrub camp was held on October 22, 2014. Approximately 70 high school students attended.
6. High School visits: Rita will make high school visits to Chemistry, Biology, A&P and Health career classes to discuss the MLT program.
7. Emails: Rita has emailed all prospective students from the list she received from marketing
8. Articulation with SDSU's MLS Program: Rita met with Pat Tille, Program Director at SDSU regarding articulation from MLT to MLS. Once agreement is signed this can be used in marketing. MN West also has an articulation agreement with University of North Dakota.

**TOPIC: Student assessments and statistics**

DISCUSSION: Statistics for Board exam results, attrition, student enrollment, and employment were discussed. Laboratory Operations tends to be the area where the lowest scores are seen. See attached sheets.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**TOPIC: MLT Career Development Symposium**

DISCUSSION: On May 21, 2014 Rita attended the MLT Career Development Symposium sponsored by Lake Area Technical Institute and Sanford Health. The basic discussion was the lack of medical laboratory professionals in the area, increasing shortage, and possible increase of hiring MLT rather than MLSs. No follow-up meeting has been planned. CLOSED

**TOPIC: Verify Credentials**

DISCUSSION: Allied health programs and nursing are now using Verified Credentials Inc., a background screening company, for background screening and to upload documents (immunizations) for storage and management. The cost to student is approximately \$59.00 which is a one-time fee. The instructor can view the student's information and the student will be able to access their records for education and employment purposes. The background study will be national rather than just Minnesota which was done in previous years. OPEN

**TOPIC: Allied Health Courses for High School Students.**

DISCUSSION: The Allied Health Educators will be proposing two courses for High school students which will be a career ladder to one of the Allied Health Programs. Healthcare in Society which is currently taught for 1 credit and Medical Terminology (HC 1180) which has been submitted to Academic Affairs Standard Committee for approval. HC 1180 Med Term

course will include definition as well as application of terms. Currently, the Medical Terminology taught by the biology department includes either the definition of words or the application but not both. If HC 1180 is approved it will have to be taught by the healthcare instructors or biology but not high school faculty unless they are credentialed in the area.

OPEN

**TOPIC: ASCLS**

**DISCUSSION:** Rita and Erin are the Southwestern Minnesota Junior Directors. Their charge is to promote the profession and provide continuing education. They are planning to have a student and professional night with a speaker. Not sure of the topic.

OPEN

**TOPIC: 60/120 and Curriculum Changes**

**DISCUSSION:** Rita proposed the curriculum change to reduce the number of total program credits from 72 to 67 credits. The following changes were proposed:

1. Replace MDLT 1110 Laboratory Math Calculations with a General Education course such as MATH1105 Intro to Probability and Statistics or MATH111 College Algebra. After reviewing the course descriptions of each and much discussion it was decided that MDLT 1110 Laboratory Math calculations should remain as a course with revamping of contents. Revamping will include less teaching of basic math and longhand mathematics especially since calculators can now be used when taking the board exam.
2. Decreasing General Education courses from 21 credits to 15 credits in accordance to MNSCU and MN West recommendations. All board members were in favor of this.
3. MDLT 2145 electrocardiogram (1 credit). Members recommended deleting this course because only a few hospitals have the lab techs perform EKGs, not regulated by CLIA, and it is not on the national board certification exam.
4. Externship: Change the name to Clinicals and break down the credits from Externship I (12 credits) and Externship II (7 credits) to individual departments each with credits. Decision was made which includes: hematology/Hemostasis 4 credits, Clinical chemistry/immunology 3 credits, clinical microbiology 4 credits, Urinalysis/bio fluids 2 credits, bloodbanking 4 credits, and capstone from 1 credit. The student will receive a grade in each area.
5. 32 hour/week and May term break. The lab managers prefer the student externs for 40 hours/week and not have a break in May. There is a May term which would solve the problem of the May break. Rita will meet with Dean Jackie Otkin to discuss this issue.

**TOPIC: 60/120 pending waiver**

**DISCUSSION:** Rita discussed the concerns that MNSCU had with the 72 credit waiver. Discussion included the fact that North Hennepin Community College has 60 credits. They are basically a 2 +2 with St Cloud State University and they are located in the urban area. Whereas, the MLT program in the rural area are stand alone and the student needs to be ready for employment. Very few MLT students advance to MLS. This discussion led to discussion about the learning outcomes not found in shorter programs. The general consensus is that the MLT students in the rural hospitals typically function as a 4-year MLS many times due to lack of MLS professionals willing to work in rural hospital labs. Additionally, the clinical sites offer a lesser volume of laboratory procedure when compared to metro areas and thus courses and clinical experience need to be longer.

Rita will take the new curriculum changes to the Allied Health/Nursing Division for approval, then to local committee for approval, and finally to College-wide curriculum committee for approval. Once approved by all the above it will be submitted to MNSCU for approval.

OPEN

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Sincerely submitted,

Rita Miller  
MLT/Phlebotomy Program Director