

Minnesota West Community & Technical College
Surgical Technology Program
Advisory Board Minutes
10/27/2014

Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Teresa Jansen, director of the surgical technology program. Introductions were given of those present: Teya Jacoby (past student), Briana Malwitz (current student), Jackie Otkin (Director of Allied Health, school administrator), Lila Bauer (Public member), Pat Evans CST (practicing CST), Karla Carstensen RN (Employer-Avera Dell Rapids Hospital), Tom Rolfs (ST Employer), Absent Dr. Norma Walks (Surgeon), Ellie Berg Program Faculty, Sue Borman Employer. Guest- Dr. Barbara McDonald.(Interim President Minnesota West.

Ryan Tjeersma OR Director from Slayton has resigned due to moving to Arizona. Lila DeWitt also has resigned due to accepting another position. At present we will be seeking new members to replace those that are leaving. We are in compliance with the current membership but expanding will also be a benefit. We thank them for their service to the program and the valuable input they have provided.

Program Goals and Outcomes

Review was given on the program goal “To prepare competent entry-level surgical technologists in the Cognitive (knowledge), Psychomotor (skills) and Affective (behavior) learning domains.” Teresa reviewed each of these domains and how the program meets this goal.

Enrollment - Marketing and Recruitment

Cohort 2014-2015 began with 8 students in the program, of that number currently 6 are new enrollees and 2 are returning students. This is significantly lower than past years. Discussion was on what we can do to recruit students to the program. Suggestions were given on marketing, Lila questioned on the Brandon and Sioux Falls marketing areas. She also stated she felt our presence in Luverne has been less, she states she use to hear more out in the community about our college and its programs. Student (Briana) stated she thought we were not as visible and when choosing a college she was unaware of our programs here in Luverne. Jackie discussed some of the items currently in progress and Teresa will follow up on those effects that include banners in the Mall in Sioux Falls. Teresa said Facebook ads are currently running and promoting the program through this avenue to attract students. Group as a whole felt radio ads were not as effective as perhaps social media.

Outcome Indicators

Retention Rates: Teresa distributed a copy of the annual report trends for the last 4 reporting years. Analysis shows that the last 3 years we have not met the goal of 70% retention. Teresa also explained that the retention rate for 2013-2014 cohort was at 56%

with 12 students beginning the program, and 7 graduating with that 2 have returned this year so that figure is adjusted to 75%. Teresa discussed data she has collected over the last 3 years and this academic year as to why students do not complete. Areas continue to be very similar to previous years. One item that students do discuss is the amount of credit loads they are required to do to complete the program in 15 months. Teresa explained that with a 53 credit program some students are taking 18-20 credits per semester. Graphs indicate that 80% of students leave due to personal issues which vary in nature, 20% academic. Trends will be continually assessed and changes will be made based on future outcomes.

A.A.S. Degree

Discussion was on how we can lower that number of credits, which we discussed the AAS program curriculum would allow for lower credits per semester and more of an avenue for students to repeat if necessary. Pat stated that the board has approved the conversion to the AAS degree at its last meeting in April 2013 and questioned the status. Copy of the new AAS curriculum was then distributed and reviewed. Discussion was made regarding the combining of the clinical rotation. Tom Rolfs was concerned the amount of instructor time would be significantly less and stated he felt having that instructor contact was important, Karla agreed that student and instructor contact should not be minimized. Teresa discussed the rationale was to align MN West with the other 8 MNSCU programs. Teresa stated they are working on an option to allow for continued contact. Board unanimously approved the AAS program (2nd time) and recommended implementation in fall of 2015. Teresa will send out any revised changes and will update per email.

Employer Satisfaction Surveys

Trending indicates satisfaction on the employer surveys remain at 100% on the 5 point scale with all areas on the Employer survey above 3 with most at 4-5. This exceeds requirement of 85%. Distribution of surveys shows that the return rate is above the 50% requirement with averages of 60% returned. Teresa explained it is still difficult to get the employers to send them back, she has found with emailing and scanning them it has helped.

Graduate Placement

Graduate placement continues to exceed the 80% standard requirement. Trending Graphs indicate placement ranges from 90-95%. Teresa indicated that last year all students were placed except, that student is on maternity leave and is not seeking employment at this time. Committee had no suggestions for change, they discussed with the economic trends that placement has been good. This year the job market in Southwest Minnesota was excellent with openings in Pipestone, Marshall, Worthington and several in the Sioux Falls market. Students had multiple choices of where to seek employment.

Certification Exam Results

Students continue to do the Web based testing here at the college for their certification exam. Participation is at 100% for the last 3 years, it is a requirement all students

participate. Trending graphs indicate an average of 85-90% or above pass ratio last 5 years. This year students received 100% pass ratio for cohort 2013-2014. Standard is 70% and the national average is around 64%. Recommendation was to continue to assess the trending

Graduate Satisfaction

Graduate satisfaction surveys are sent in late Feb, 6 months post-graduation. Return ratio averages between 80 to up 90 % which exceeds 50% standard requirement. Satisfaction rates of are consistently 100% for the last 5 reporting years. This exceeds the 85% standard requirement. Committee discussed that trending indicates students are happy with the program and that with the employer surveys indicate that the goals are being achieved.

Clinical site availability

Clinical sites remain the same with the addition of Brookings. They provided an excellent opportunity for the student and they also do robotic surgery which was a huge benefit. Teresa stated all contracts are current and she is always looking for potential sites. At present Teresa feels the current sites should be able to accommodate the specialized areas. A few of the rural facilities struggled with specialties and required some shifting of students to other facilities but overall students were able to achieve their goal of 120 cases as outline by accreditation requirements No changes recommended at this time.

Equipment and Supplies

Teresa reported that through several clinical sites, she has been getting a lot of supplies. Currently 4 hospitals donate and have saved on the program budget significantly. Pipestone donated a drill set which will be used next year in the orthopedic rotation. Technology funds were not used by the program this year and she explained with prioritizing needs for the center, other programs had higher needs this year. Teresa reviewed the 5 year budget requests and at present the committee offered no further recommendations to what was listed.

Employment Opportunities

Currently there remain openings in Pipestone and Sioux Falls and no students remain to seek employment. Job market remains strong for this field.

Other:

Committee members had no further questions or concerns and the meeting was adjourned.