

**Minnesota West Community & Technical College**  
**Surgical Technology Program**  
**Advisory Board Minutes**  
**April 23, 2019**

**Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order by Amy McCuen, Surgical Technology Program Director. Introductions were given of those present: **Paige Flinn** (current student), **Jackie Otkin** (Director of Allied Health, Minnesota West school administrator), **Barb Berghorst** (Public Member), **Mary Jane Sorenson** (practicing surgical tech), **Tara Olson** (Clinical Learning & Development Specialist, Surgical Services, Sanford USD Medical Center), **Alisha McKibben** (practicing CST, MN Adjunct Faculty), **Ali Bures** (Inpatient OR Manager, Avera McKennan Hospital & University Health Center), **Myles Tieszen** (Surgeon, Sanford Laverne Hospital and Clinic), **Chloe Hagen** (practicing CST), **Anne Wieczorek** (practicing CST), Teleconferenced: **Jay Koeppe** (Perioperative Manager, Chippewa County Montevideo Hospital).  
Absent: **Taylor Rasmussen** (past student/practicing CST), **Nicole Johnson** (past student/practicing CST)

We are in search of a new Employer Advisory Committee Position. We are in compliance with the current membership.

Thank you for all the members joining us today. Our Annual meeting was scheduled for the spring this year due to the program director change this past fall. The annual meeting will again resume in the fall of 2019. All members were in agreement.

After introductions, Amy took the members on a tour of the school and the surgical tech lab.

**Business**

Jackie provided college wide updates including the addition of the Dental Assistance Program expanding to the Laverne Center. The Dental Assisting lab will be on campus and the lecture will be via adobe connect.

**Program Outcomes**

Reviewed the Student enrollment from fall 2017 through spring 2019.

Cohort 2017/2018 – 11 new students

7 students returned for 2<sup>nd</sup> year

6 students graduated from the surgical tech program Spring 2018

Cohort 2018/2019 – 13 new students

5 students returned for 2<sup>nd</sup> year  
7 students returning for 2<sup>nd</sup> year Fall 2019

## **New Business**

Jackie and Amy are working on revising/updating the Student Handbook. Committee reviewed the draft handbook for input and feedback. The committee will review the final copy this fall. The committee had a lengthy discussion concerning student absenteeism during weather incidents. Paige suggested that the college needs to advise students in the beginning of the program to plan ahead for these events for the financial burden of staying in hotel expenses when weather is bad etc. It is important for students to have the opportunity to get their necessary case load and clinical hours. Surgery slows down after February and these opportunities are not as easy to acquire. Students may find it easier to stay in the location of the clinical for that semester.

Discussed changing or revising the clinical evaluation forms. Amy and Alisha will be looking into the evaluation forms and making them more compatible to the students' clinical experience. This will be completed before Clinical I in the Fall, 2019. The clinical site will receive a list of the competency skills that are required before the clinical experience. This will provide the clinical site with an understanding of student's knowledge level. In addition, the faculty will meet with all clinical preceptors to review policies/procedures and discuss evaluation tools. The preceptors will be required to sign all notes on the evaluation form.

Dr. Tieszen offered to provide "mock surgery" training to the 2<sup>nd</sup> year students before they go to clinical to relieve some stress they might have about surgery. It was suggested to have medical residents come out and help with passing instruments and doing "mock surgeries".

Talked about having a panel of CST come to the school and talk to our students about their career.

## **Graduate Placement**

Five students graduated from the program in May 2019. Three students are placed as practicing surgical technicians. One is continuing her education and the fifth one is waiting to take the Certification Exam before looking for employment. As it stands today, we have an 80% placement rate.

## **Certification Exam Results**

Students continue to do web based testing here at the college for their certification exam. Participation is at 100% for the last 4 years, it is a requirement of students to participate. In 2018, we had a 91% pass ratio.

### **Clinical Site Availability**

Clinical sites remain the same for 24 possible students. Two of our clinical sites provide a great opportunity for robotic surgery. All of our sites provide the opportunity to complete the number of surgical cases within the allotted timeframe.

### **Equipment & Supplies**

Amy reported that we receive donated supplies from our clinical partners. The greatest cost to the program is surgical gloves. Amy provided the committee with a quote for additional instrument (orthopedic, plastic, neuro) along with a quote for a laparoscopic camera system, monitor, soft belly/torso for lab simulations, and 5mm 30-degree scope.

### **Employment Opportunities**

The need for surgical technicians remains very high in our area. Avera in Sioux Falls and Marshall and Sanford Sioux Falls and Fargo are still in need of technicians.

### **Other**

Committee members had no further questions. We closed with a tour of the schools lab for the members that missed the tour at the beginning.