

SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM
Advisory Committee
Minutes of Feb. 19, 2012

Present:

Mary McKay, CST

Molly Attell, RN, Nurse Educator

Mike Wasilewski, CST, CRCST

Irina Glasman, Class President

Alice Erskine, RN

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm.

Approved Agenda items:

1. Status of the Program:

Retention Rates: So far, we have lost only three students which is about average for the program. Alice reported that the college is now using a service to screen and track the students' background checks and health records. This has made student placements in the hospitals much easier.

Quality Assurance: The program must follow procedures required by the program's accrediting commission. As in the past, Alice mails out written surveys to the graduates of the program as well as to the employer facilities who have hired the grads. The return rate is poor (about 50%) and this skews the results. However, of the few she received from the 2010-2011 year's grads and their employers, she was able to make some observations:

- Several students are still looking for work even nine months after completing the program. It is assumed this is because of the economic downturn.
- Most of the grads are certified. It is not mandatory for hire in Northern California, but the accrediting body expects 100% compliance.
- Employers seem to be generally satisfied with the educational preparation of the grads

2. Curriculum Update: Mike has been asked to create a Lab Manual so the students can refer to it when he is not available for one-on-one directions. It should cover most of the skills the students are required to learn in SURG 441. It is expected to be completed by July in time for the start of the Fall semester.

The Association of Surgical Technology has revised their Core Curriculum. Alice is now charged with ensuring the curriculum of the Skyline program is in compliance with this new edition. Some of the changes made are editorial (combining topics on the outline). The curriculum still requires lessons on Information Technology (Computers and the Internet). But, Alice was assured by the association representative that using a writing assignment showing the

student must be able to use a computer and the internet would suffice to show the student meets this requirement.

3. Community Issues: Mary McKay informed the group that Assembly Bill 2561 was introduced in the California State Assembly by Raymond Hernandez (Not the Dean, and no relation). This bill is designed to formalize the credentialing of surgical technologists in this state. It states that in order to practice as a Surgical Technologist, the person must have passed the Certification Exam given by the National Board of Surgical Technologist and Surgical Assistants. It is expected to pass. This is great news because it helps to ensure the public is protected against techs that have been trained on the job.

4. Student Issues: Class President Irina Glasman polled her fellow students about any concerns they had. Some said the textbook for SURG 442, the Surgical Specialties, is too hard to read. It seems to be oriented towards the nurse. They also asked if there could be more videos on the surgical procedures available. They also suggested that all videos need to be updated.

5. Recommendations: Alice is to look for a text that meets the needs of the surgical technology student for a step-by-step description of the surgical procedures. It also was suggested Alice look into obtaining grant money for new videos.

Respectfully submitted by

Alice Erskine, RN