



**Surgical Technology Program
Advisory Committee
March 8, 2016**

Present:

Employer Representatives: Colleen Fiammengo, RN, Summit MC
Anjal Pong, RN, St. Francis Memorial
Medical Director: Lorne Rosenfield, MD
Practicing CSTs: Mary McKay, CST, Seton MC
Olena Goldsmith, CST, Kaiser Santa Rosa
New Graduate: Robert Alire, ST
Public Member: Paul Rueckhaus, Assistant Professor, Skyline College
Faculty: Jay Olivares, CST, RN, Clinical Coordinator
Alice Erskine, CST, RN, Program Director
Administrator: Ijaz Ahmed, MD, CRT, Allied Health Manager

The Meeting was called to order at 4:45 pm. Introductions were made and all positions except the Current Student were represented. The purpose of the committee was described by the Program Director.

Status of the Program: Twenty-five applicants were accepted for the current cohort including some students who were returning from a previous cohort. Three student have since dropped out. A little history: The 2014-15 cohort lost 50% of its class. It was decided that for the 2015-16 cohort, 31 students were accepted. The rationale being that if there was a repeat of the attrition rate of the previous cohort, the numbers would meet the acceptable level required to support the program. The attrition rate was exceedingly low (1 student), and there was a decrease in available clinical sites that year. As a result, six students were unable to complete the required 500 hours during the normal term. They have been included in the clinical roster for this year. Since the program is accredited for only 25 students, this year's cohort was set at 25.

The Accreditation Review Committee noted at their 2014 site visit, that the program was understaffed. Therefore, a new position, Clinical Coordinator was posted. This person would be responsible for obtaining clinical sites for the ST and CST programs as well as teaching the clinical lab class. We are very pleased to announce the hiring of Jay Olivares, CST, RN, who has taken to the role whole-heartedly with skill and poise.

The curriculum has been amended to provide a separation between the grade the students receive for the didactic portion of Patient Care Concepts and the skills portion of that course. SURG 441 is not a stand-alone theory course and a new lab has been added: SURG 455: Clinical Skills. Another position has been added to the faculty, Laboratory Assistant, to meet the needs of the students who wrote on their Graduate Surveys that there was not enough one-on-one skills training. That position has been posted and has yet to be filled.

Status of the Program:

Also identified through the surveys was the fact that there is a low rate of graduates who sit for the national Certification Exam. Therefore, the program has added a post-graduation Certification Exam Review class, to be given this June by Jay Olivares. In addition, the program plans to administer the on-line exam on campus to ease access for all grads.

Another class assigned to our newest faculty member is MEDA 415: Legal and Ethical Issues for Allied Health Professionals. This class was added to the Summer schedule in hopes of preparing the students for the scope of their new practice and to introduce them to professional behavior and communication before entering the Patient Care Concepts class. This material has always been covered in that course, but with limited time, it had to be a brief overview. All committee members agreed these concepts were so important to the success of the student that a separate class was needed.

In the lab, the program has purchased new simulation equipment to provide the students with a more realistic setting to practice laparotomy, vaginal surgery, and laparoscopic procedures. More instruments have been purchased and several facilities have donated some as well. The Program is now well-stocked with most of the basic instrumentation.

Recommendations of the Committee:

1. Provide the Advisory Committee Members with the Accreditation Report, and the Annual Program Report. This would give them more insight into the needs and constraints of the program. Plus, as a resource, they can assist in offering suggestions on program improvement.
2. To increase the number of clinical placements available, it was suggested the program hire an instructor to represent the program at each clinical site and to support the student on a daily basis. This was likened to the Nursing Model of in-house training.
3. Another suggestion to increase sites was to speak with the Chief Financial Officers of each institution and show him/her to cost/benefit ratio of training potential hires and increasing retention rates. Dr. Rosenfield offered to help.
4. Ask the graduates to help in identifying potential clinical sites.
5. To help promote the program to potential sites and employers, do research to find out the retention and Certification Exam success rates of other programs and compare Skyline's results.
6. Make English a prerequisite to increase student success. [This is being looked into]
7. Make prioritizing the back-table and Mayo set-up as a requirement before progressing into the Clinical Rotations. [This has been incorporated into the SURG 455 curriculum].

Healthcare Community Needs:

1. St. Francis needs two (2) Certified Surgical Techs
2. Summit will hire new grads.
3. Questions: Can Skyline interview applicants? *No, there is potential for bias based on race, color, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identification.*
Can Skyline accept students based on merit? *There is a possibility this will be applied in the coming years.*

Respectfully submitted by *Alice Erskine*, Program Director