



**SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM
Advisory Committee
October 14, 2016**

- Present:** Anjal Pong, RN, St. Francis Memorial Hospital (Employer Rep)
Mary McKay, CST, Seton Medical Center (Practicing CST)
Josh Blair, CST, Washington Hospital (Graduate)
Adriana Morales, Student Surgical Tech
Genevieve Menanie, Student Surgical Tech
Alice Erskine, RN, Skyline Community College (Program Director)
- Absent:** Lorne Rosenfield, MD, (Medical Director)
Paul Rueckhaus, College Instructor, (Community Member)
Ijaz Ahmed, MD, Allied Health Programs Director (Administrator)
Jay Olivares, RN, CST, Clinical Coordinator (Faculty)
Colleen Fiammengo, RN, Alta Bates/ Summit (Employer Rep)
Olena Goldsmith, CST, Kaiser Santa Rosa (Practicing CST)

The Meeting was called to order at 4:45 pm. Introductions were made all around.

Purpose of the Committee: Ms. Erskine defined the purpose as a quality assessment tool to assist the college in improving the program. The advice of the community member, Medical Director, Administrators, Faculty, practicing surgical techs and students are taken into account when determining any changes made to the program.

Status of the Program: For the year, 2015-16, 24 students were admitted including one returning student. Two students failed different courses, and seven dropped from the program at various times and for various reasons. Fourteen graduated from the program. One of the students who failed plans to retake the course she failed. Of the fourteen who graduated, eight are currently certified and employed.

The Graduate and Employer surveys were sent out in Fall for the 2015 Class. There was a 95% return rate from the graduates with 100% Satisfactory responses. Of the Employer surveys, there was only a 71% return rate but a 100% Satisfactory responses.

There was considerable difficulty in obtaining clinical sites for the 2015-16 cohort. This was due to 1) inability of hospitals to participate due to staffing or construction issues, 2) several returning students from the 2014-15 cohort who had priority. Therefore, many of the 2015-16 cohort were delayed in starting their clinical externships which resulted in several who are just now finishing.

Healthcare Community Issues: Mary McKay and Anjal Pong both confirmed that their respective hospitals are experiencing some stress-filled times. There seems to be a shortage of STs due to slow schedules. Mary said she has been sent home early or given a day off when the census is down. STs resigned to find work elsewhere. Other hospitals are going through new construction or remodeling which impacts the workload. These hospitals may have positions available, but they are not taking new grads. The exceptions are those grads who trained at the hospital.

Student Issues: The students suggested hiring 3 or more lab instructors so the class could be broken up into smaller groups for one-to-five practice. They also said they would like to have a visual lab manual so when they practice on their own, they can follow the pictures. It would be helpful if they had a schedule of the labs with written objectives prior to the labs. For assignments, they want to be able to see the due dates on a calendar like WebAccess or other tool. In addition, they would prefer if the content of the lecture and the lab were better aligned so they learn the principles and then practice the principles.

The students also suggested there be days when the class could visit a working O.R. and see cases from beginning to end so they could understand the sequence of events.

Ms. Erskine told them of the roadblocks that have been put in place since she offered the students Observation Days many years ago. The Federal law known as HIPAA has caused most hospitals to decline to offer these observation days. However, she said she would look into an alternative. Perhaps a Surgery Center might be more open to allowing observers.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Submitted by Alice Erskine, RN