

**SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM**  
**Advisory Committee**  
**Minutes of Sept. 4, 2012**

**Present:**

**Lorne Rosenfield, MD**

**Mark Dorsey, CST**

**Molly Attell, RN, MSN**

**Alice Erskine, RN, MSN**

**Mary McKay, CST**

**Mike Wasilewski, CST, CRCST**

**Malonnie Miller, Student ST**

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

The Agenda was approved.

Items:

1. Facilities Update: The College has improved its Emergency Response with a better Public Address system and signage. Emergency drills have been planned and the students will be expected to participate.

2. Curriculum and Lab Update: Mike reported that he has developed a Lab Manual as a resource for the students. It has specific instructions and photos demonstrating the proper techniques for each skill. It is not required, but he hopes to revise it and have it included in the list of required texts for Fall of 2013.

The Lab now has Practice sets for the ST and Central Service students to use to learn the names and handling of instruments. The Practice sets are missing some instruments. The goal is to purchase additional instruments to complete 10 sets.

3. Status of the Program:

Retention Rates: Alice reported that the attrition rate for the 2011-12 year was 14%. One person failed the Science class but has returned this year. One person had health issues and another found the program was not what she expected.

Success Rates: Of the 18 who completed the program, 12 are currently employed. Most have yet to take the certification exam.

Alice shared that there had been a problem with some students not complying with the Background checks. But, a change in policy and procedure should resolve this issue.

Student Learning Outcomes: Alice explained that SLOs are similar to Course and Program Objectives in that they tell a student what he or she is expected to learn. They are designed to assist the instructors and the administrators in determining to what degree the students are successful in learning. Alice reported that the College has a goal of creating SLOs

for all classes and programs and establishing regular assessment cycles for all. As Program Director and the full-time faculty member for both the ST and CST programs, she is expected to assess and document these quality assurance measures by the end of Spring, 2013. So far, she has assessed SURG 440.

4. Healthcare Community Issues: Molly brought the issue of determining the quality of an ST program before accepting a student for clinical training. She was referred to the National Board for Surgical Technologists and Surgical First Assistants to see if the program is accredited.

Dr. Rosenfield noted that he has difficulty finding STs that are certified because hospitals in the Bay Area do not require it. The posting for his personal scrub tech says “Certification Preferred”.

Alice and Mike spoke about the fact that the graduates are having a hard time finding work since most postings ask for experience. Some of the students are hired by the institution that trains them, but not all. Mary McKay remarked that when there is a shortage of staff, the hospitals are more willing to take new grads.

5. Student Issues: Malonnie, speaking on behalf of the students, says they would like more one-on-one time with an instructor before being asked to practice lab skills. Some of the students like the lab manual, but it needs more pictures.

Action Plan: Mike will revise the lab manual and schedule more “check-offs” when he observes the student individually. He would also like to purchase a video camera to film a student in lab so that the student can see how well he is doing.

6. Recommendations: See above. It was also recommended that the college hire more lab assistants for the program. It was suggested that former grads could be hired to help with labs. Alice explained that a primary goal is also to expand Mike’s position to full-time. Mark commented that the graduate could add the experience of assisting with labs to his or her resume. It was recommended that Physiology be added as a prerequisite so that the Basic Sciences course would present less new material for the students.

**Respectfully submitted by**

**Alice Erskine, RN**