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**Surgical Technology Program  
Advisory Committee  
February 20, 2019**

**Attending:**

Ray Hernandez, Dean, Science/ Math/ Technology Division  
Alice Erskine, Program Director  
Monica Franciosa, Clinical Coordinator  
Mary McKay, Instructional Assistant  
Rob and Carol Labarthe, Community Members  
Claret Presley, RN, Periop. Dir., Kaiser San Rafael  
Jeannette Bird, RN, Periop. Educator, UCSF  
Anjal Pong, RN, Periop. Educator, UCSF  
Dolly Chan, RN, ORN IV, Seton Medical Center  
Lenka Collett, Student Surg Tech  
Fabiola Shugarte, Student Surg Tech  
Lorna Vengco, Student Surg Tech

**Greetings from Dean Hernandez:**

Dean Hernandez announced the Surgical Technology Program has been awarded another 8 years accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. He noted that the accrediting body will require in 2021 that all students graduate with an Associate's degree. Skyline already has that option in place. He shared the news that the Respiratory Care Program now offers a Bachelor's Degree, one of only a few Community Colleges that offer a four-year degree.

He also described the 3 Programs of the Surgical Careers Department: Anesthesia Technology, Central Service Technology and Surgical Technology and answered questions about prerequisites. He explained the policy of the college that promotes Open Access to ensure Equity for all students. The emphasis is now on making the college ready for the student rather than focusing on the readiness of the student for college.

**Status of the Program:**

Alice reported that the program accepted 25 students in June plus 2 students who were returning from previous cohorts. Two students have dropped from the program due to personal reasons. This semester, twenty-two students are assigned to hospitals and three are still waiting for placements. Several placements promised last fall fell through due to unforeseen circumstances.

Per our accreditation, students and employers are to be surveyed regarding the quality of the program. All 2018 graduates were surveyed on campus on the day of their web-based certification exam. One student was unable to complete the program and has returned this year. Sixty-five percent have reported they have been hired. One graduate is currently in nursing school while another is studying for her NCLEX-RN exam.

#### **Staffing Update:**

Alice introduced Ms. Monica Franciosa, DSc, CST. She has been hired as the new Clinical Coordinator. Her duties will include arranging clinical placements for the students, monitoring students while they are training, and teaching two classes. The first class will be the Law and Ethics for Allied health Professionals in summer, and the Clinical Skills Lab in the fall. Monica shared a bit of her history: 23 years serving in military and civilian operating rooms as a Certified Surgical Technologist, and currently providing counseling services to people suffering from addictions.

#### **Jeanna Davis Award report:**

Rob and Carol Labarthe gave the history of this program. Jeanna was their only child and an excellent CST. She had a passion about the O.R. so her parents honor her by providing support to selected ST students. Over the last four years, there have been more than 50 recipients of the award. Several students give credit to the award as it made their success in the Surgical Technology Program possible.

#### **Lab Update:**

Mary McKay reported that the college has purchased a SimDaver, a manikin that has the texture of a real human recently deceased and without a skin covering. It will be useful to teach the students the look and feel of living tissue when dissecting and retracting. It is made of material that is very lifelike and it must be carefully preserved to prevent decomposition. This year, we were able to use the Allied health's new simulation center to assess students' clinical skills. Final Evaluations were performed in the room which was equipped so it closely resembled a real O.R. In that room the student could be videotaped so the student's performance could be reviewed if necessary.

Since the fall, there has been an influx of new Anesthesia equipment and lots more disposable supplies, thanks to donations from hospitals.

#### **Healthcare Community Issues:**

Jeannette Bird of UCSF asked how many of the graduates maintain their certification after being hired? (Unknown). Many hospitals now require it for hiring. Twice legislation was introduced in the State Legislature to require STs be certified to practice, but it was vetoed by Governor Brown both times. Perhaps Governor Newsom will support it.

Dolly Chan remarked that Seton Medical Center has a Clinical Ladder that requires certification for Senior Surgical Technologist. She said certification needs to be promoted by management. Claret Presley of Kaiser agreed. Kaiser supports the STs by offering Certification Prep classes. She also commented that Magnet status emphasizes certification for nurses, but not for STs. Many Hospital Administrators are unaware of the STs' role in patient care.

Claret also brought up the issue of the high rates of Surgical Site Infections. It seems that hand hygiene is poor even in the O.R. Perhaps practitioners are becoming complacent when they use the alcohol cleansers. A discussion ensued about the status of staff Surgical Conscience. Dr. Monica Franciosa is currently working on a book with a physician about this topic.

**Student Issues:**

Lorna Vengco, expressed the frustration felt by several students who are still waiting for a clinical placement. As of the December Break, all students were offered a placements although several were to be delayed due to moving to new locations, construction or staffing changes at the hospitals. Then, after the New Year, a number of facilities had to postpone the start dates to even later in the year. The students asked what happens to those students and were told they would start before the end of the semester and receive an Incomplete. This means they would complete their hours later in the year.

It was noted that students who are waiting have been encouraged to meet with Mary at Open Labs on Tuesday and Thursday mornings to keep their skills sharp. Several have been working with Mary frequently. However, they have all passed SURG 451, the Clinical Skills Lab and those who do not come cannot be forced to attend.

**Respectfully submitted by**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alice Erskine".

**Alice Erskine, RN  
Program Director**