

**MINUTES**  
**RVT/ANIMAL SCIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2015**  
**6:45 PM., BUILDING 80, ROOM 1250**

**Industry Representatives:** Dana Mammary, Lori Miser, Dr. Tom Greek, Dr. Carol McLaughlin, Dr. Donna Earnheart, Dr. Gary White, Michelle Rash, Jackie Smith, Sylvia Lemus, Joanne Sohn, and Sherri Reichardt

**Mt. SAC Faculty and Staff:** Matthew Judd, Karelyn Hoover, Maya Padilla, Larry Poncetta, Dr. Gary Uyeno, Darlene Vale, Landon Sullivan, and Dawn Waters

1. Welcome – Dawn Waters welcomed and thanked everyone for coming and then reviewed the purpose of an advisory committee.
2. Approval of Minutes from March, 2015 - The minutes from March, 2015 were distributed and reviewed. Ellen Teneriello made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Dr. Carol McLaughlin second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Fall, 2015 Class Updates – Classes were once again full with full waitlists. We added a couple of sections of classes. Survey went out a few weeks ago that gave us great insight into what classes students need to get into. We have the largest Winter session yet for our Department with 7 classes being offered.
4. RVT Student Update – Dawn Waters went over the statistics for the RVT Orientation Days this Fall stating that numbers are still rising. We offered only one Orientation this semester in a large auditorium and we had 95 students attend. Dawn has seen an additional 10 students individually to add to these numbers.
5. Orientation Changes – We added some slides to our Orientation PowerPoint so that students are more aware of program expectations. These slide were: Rigor, Time Management, California State License Requirements, Class Sequencing and Work Experience Professional Conduct. Some members of the advisory had some suggestions: go over the cost of licensing and lifescan, and making a video of the Orientation so that students that missed the orientation would be able to sit down and preview.
6. Transfer Model Curriculum – Our courses have been submitted and are awaiting approval from the Mt. SAC curriculum committee. From there they will proceed to C-ID approval, and then they will be submitted for Transfer Model Curriculum. These students that complete the model will have guaranteed acceptance into UC and CSU agriculture programs.

7. Changes to our Curriculum – We would like to add Animal Handling & Restraint as a prerequisite to the following courses: Medical Nursing, Veterinary Radiography and Applied Animal Health. The advisory committee approved these changes unanimously. The idea of changing our Seminar class to an elective class was discussed. Sheri thought that this class was necessary before the internet was so prevalent. Now students have the ability to get the same resources on their own with the internet. We will look into making it an elective, making it an online course, making it a fee-based course or simply getting rid of the class altogether. We will discuss this at the next advisory meeting. Discussion ensued about making Canine Management a lecture only course. Several advisory members that were graduates of our program felt that this course needs to remain a lab class. The reason we thought to make it a lecture only course is that it becomes a safety issue when students' dogs are used in the lab. It was agreed to keep it a lab class at this time.

8. VTNE Results – Recent results from the VTNE were discussed. Our current 3-year pass rate is 85%. We are still noticing a correlation with the length of time between graduation and taking the exam. Students that wait a year or more from graduation are not as successful as students that take the test immediately after graduating.

9. Perkins – Dawn Waters discussed the importance of our department receiving funds through the VTEA/Perkins grant. Perkins provides funding to support career technical education programs. The focus of the grant is on accountability and program improvement, increased coordination with career technical education and the community, stronger academic and technical integration, connections between secondary and postsecondary education, and a stronger focus on business and industry. The grant's focus was reviewed and the importance of funding for our conferences was reiterated to the advisory. Also, agriculture ambassadors, student assistants in classes, and instructional supplies are an important part of keeping our programs current and visible to the community and industry. The advisory committee agreed and a list of 2015-2016 requests was discussed. Maya Padilla made a motion to approve all of the requests, Lori Miser second the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

10. RVT Program Growth – Dawn brought up that we are still working on the application into our second year courses. While at the AVTE Symposium we realized that we are the only RVT program that was there that did not have a selection process in place. Dr. White agreed that we need to get that up and running and that we should think about having the students take a medical entrance exam like the HESI as part of their application. The topic of program growth was discussed and the idea about adding an evening cohort program was the most popular. We would look to add 20-24 students to the cohort. We would start the cohort first with just the second year classes and then eventually

add all the classes to the cohort. The advisory committee unanimously voted to support both the application process and the cohort program.

We then brought up the idea of a Certified Veterinary Assistant Program and the discussion led to the fact that with our program being so large (over 600 students) that we should stick with what we do best – Registered Veterinary Technology. Let other schools and program worry about veterinary assistants and we can work on increasing our number of graduates from our RVT program. Gary was worried about us flooding the field with too many RVTs. The advisory felt that would not be a problem but Matt Judd mentioned that Arnita Champion could look into job market data. The advisory was supportive of not adding a veterinary assistant certificate to our curriculum.

11. Future Ideas for RVT Program – Dawn would like to hold a career night for the RVT program in the spring. Dr. White felt that was a great idea. Arnita can also take time to help us with a career night. We can use the Horticulture Science Career night as an example. Dr. White also offered his RVTs help. Dawn would also like to put out a RVT newsletter. She would need the help of the advisory committee as well as help with the career night. Advisory committee supports both of these ideas.

Study Abroad – this is something Dawn and Maya have been looking into for our students. We will need to talk with the Division to see how we would go about doing this.

11. Animal Reports by Unit –

- Vivarium – Maya Padilla reported that we have 30 male rats. The rats are used in Lab Animal class.
- Beef Unit – Larry reported that we have 19 cows, 4 yearling heifers, 2 yearling steers, 4 heifer calves and 1 steer calf
- Horse Unit – Landon Sullivan reported that we have 26 adult horses including two stallions, 5 foals, and 8 boarding horses.
- Sheep Unit – Larry reported that there is 1 ram, 4 ewes, and 10 ewe lambs and 3 wether lambs.
- Swine Unit – Larry reported that we have 3 boars, 28 sows and gilts, and 60 piglets.
- Exotics – Dawn Waters reported that we have one watusi, and 2 llamas. All are very old and are in great shape.

8. Next Meeting – The next RVT Advisory meeting will be held on Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>.

9. Old Business – None

10. New Business – Michelle Rash asked if there is anything the committee can do for us and we just said to continue to support our funding and curriculum changes. Developments on Continuing Education were discussed. We have had dentistry and CPR clinics. It was brought up that maybe the cold laser company would be willing to hold a clinic in our hospital and donate a cold laser to the program.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.