

OTA Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes 6/28/07
1H3 (HTC) 8:15am

Present

Donna Weathers
Gail Piraino
Debbie Smart
Sharon Sanderson
Kendra Orcutt
Marna Schank
Fonda Scott
Reeca Young
Debby Martinez
Tom Kraft

Welcome & Introductions

Tom Kraft called the meeting to order and the sign up sheet was passed around then introductions were made. Tom had asked the members what they are involved in now. Debbie Smart advised she was doing independent work with schools closer to the area she lives. Debbie also has been writing for Highlights for children. Debbie added that she is the membership chair person for the OTA and new lower membership fees went out to encourage other OT's and COTA's. Gail Piraino announced she is a stroke survivor and has attempted to return to work. Donna Weathers is working for Emcompass in Norman and travels extensively. Kendra Orcutt has her own therapy company and has been working in conjunction with Encompass with their overflow. Fonda Scott is working with Kendra. Marna Schank has been with St. Anthony for five years and has been transferred to the south side location where she is doing activities for the adolescent males. She's able to do her own program with this position and she is also acting as a clinical instructor for one of the OTA students. Sharon Sanderson announced she will be OOTA president for two more days when she will resign to take on the responsibility of Secretary for the AOTA. The OOTA will need a Vice President and would be only a one year term. The Conference is well under way and the incoming Vice President would only need to develop one more conference. Marna Shank is working in special education and the Choctaw school is looking for staff. Reeca Young is also doing special education in Edmond Schools.

Advisory Committee Appointments (effective July 1st)

Tom Kraft advised the group that the advisory committee members would be getting letters of appointment that may be generated by Dr. Cobble possible some time this summer.

- **Term length – 1 or 2 years**

The appointments are for one and two year lengths and the members term length will be staggered and anyone having a preference please advise.

- **Reappointment**

The reappointments can either be extended from one to two or decreased from two to one depending on the members preference.

Program Update

- **Program numbers:**

- **1st semester Fall entry** *20 standard*

Applications for the OTA program close tomorrow the 29th. As of last week there were over 30 applicants for the program which is what it had been running for the past few years.

- 23 past 2 years (15% increase)

The OTA program anticipates accepting 23 this entry. In prior years they have accepted up to 24.

- **1 less due to accommodations concern**

Tom Kraft explained that three years ago a student that was accepted was deaf and also had some visual issues. The captionist came with the student which brought the total in class to 25. Therefore they prefer 23 thinking if there is some type of assistance needed for a student it would not cramp the class. One of the positive things from this experience was that it was put on video tapes that had a caption for future uses.

- **23 for Fall 2007 (15% increase)**

The OTA Program anticipates 23 for the fall which is still above the standard acceptance of 20. Tom explained the criteria for entry into the program is strictly GPA with a minimum of 86 on the Compass Reading Test and then be eligible for college level algebra. The program had dropped from using the preference points system, but has talked about going back to that or something in that area. There was also discussion of employing a behavior blueprint for a grade in the program that has been implemented in some of the other OTA programs nationwide. The blueprint if completed will be shared with the members in the next meeting.

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- **3rd semester – 23**

There are 23 students moving into the 3rd semester.

- **4th semester (FW) – 1**

There is one student doing fieldwork the 4th semester.

- **Total = 47**

There are an overall total of 47 students in the OTA program at this time.

- **Graduates**

18 - May, 2007

This was a very solid group of graduates.

- **Employment**

- **May 2007 grads – 18**

- **13 employed, 5 unknown (have options)**

There are some of the graduates setting back to study for the certification exam or just taking a break before they test for their certification. They are all employable and most are staying in state. Arkansas has really been interested in our graduates for basically long term care and standard rehabilitation.

- **Certification Examination**

- **May/Dec 2006 Graduates**

- **21 eligible**

- **20 took (as of 6/18/07)**

- **19 passed (18 first time, 1 retake)**
- **1 unknown as to retake**

- **1 eligible unknown to have taken**

From the May/December 2006 graduates there were 21 eligible to take the certification exam and as of 6/18/07 twenty had taken the test. There were 19 that passed and from that 18 passed on the first attempt and one retook it and passed. The two students that did not pass shared that they were unsuccessful due to anxiety. The one has retaken the exam and passed and the other it is unknown whether they have taken it or not. It is assumed it was retaken since she is working out of state and the NBCOT has not reported. One is eligible but unknown to have taken the exam. The NBCOT reports that nationwide, many graduates are waiting 10 to 14 months to take the exam. The reasons for the delays in taking the tests were money, more time to study and anxiety issues.

Discussion regarding:

- **Curriculum revision**

- **ACOTE Standards (effective January '08) – Handout**

The Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education have been working on new educational Standards for the entire OTA program this past August and have finalized them. The handout shows the old Standards with comments and the new Standards for OTA, effective January 2008 in a very prescriptive document.

- **Brief summary of Curriculum revision process/progress**

In 1973 the program began with 62 credit hours and has to date not changed. The content was changed in areas then put in the appropriate courses but did not increase the credit hours. Since the new Standards have been finalized the OTA program felt it was time to do a complete comprehensive revision. Given the handout these are the Standards (what we expect to see) and the interpretive guide demonstrates how the content should relate to the program.

- **Presentation of proposed courses and sequencing – Handouts**

Last summer the OTA program during the revision process asked what the program did well, what it could do better, what it doesn't do, what it would like to do, and what the program must do. They began by taking this document and identified those areas that needed change. We currently use the Model of Human Occupation and practice framework which fits right in with what we have been doing as a program and reinforces a continuity throughout the program.

- **Courses**

The ideal of individual development leading toward the ability to be independent moved into a discussion of what we would like to have in the courses. The Human Conditions course in the first semester would give the students a variety of conditions to build on in later semesters along with cultural diversity. Last year at conference a speaker spoke on the concept of OT Without Borders globally. The key to revision is phrasing courses similar to what was done to meet practice areas.

The program will require A&P II which will raise the credit hours. There was talk about dropping the Introduction to Sociology and develop a culture course, but when they looked at the catalog they found a course, Minorities, Ethnicity and Cultural Diversity that would be interactive with an OTA component to it. Medical Terminology is not a required class but it is strongly helpful and could be incorporated into the Introduction class and some of the other classes as well.

- **Sequencing**

The first semester will be changed as follows. The Activities and Skills will be divided into two sections being, Application of Leisure Occupation then Human Conditions Impacting Occupation. While they are taking these OTA classes the Minorities, Ethnicity, and Cultural Diversity will also be required. This content will flow throughout the semester and will reinforce what they are hearing in the other classes and know what an OTA is all about right from the beginning. They will look at the environment in the OT way and be able to articulate that if a person has this type of condition (not a disability) what are the various factors that may be impacted with that condition. They would also be moving into the second semester with more solid framework of conditions and OT sensitivity to various cultures, ethnicity diversity, etc.

- **Credit Hours addition**

The current curriculum for the first semester is 16 credit hours and has proposed to raise it to 18 credit hours which will incorporate A&P I & A&P II. They had looked at the PTA program that has A&P I during the summer before they come into the program and if you can not you can do so in the first semester. Then doing A&P II in second semester but the preference would be to take it in the summer. They could then change the application date so the chosen applicants would know sooner and be able to take the summer course. The application date is now June 29th and could now go back to March like nursing and PTA.

In the second semester we are looking at changing the Development for Occupational Therapy class to possibly having two separate courses being Occupational Performance - Birth through Adolescence then later on in the summer have Occupational Performance - Adult Lifespan which would give more time to deal with age related issues. Movement and Therapeutic Interventions which deal with range of motion, splinting, modalities that deal with movement, muscle testing, then performance of daily activities such as self care and the other areas of daily life. The Group Dynamics course would stay the same. At the present, summers are not used but thought was to propose the use of them. With these changes the switch of the credit hours were from 18 to now 16 for the second semester.

The third semester changes would be from Psychosocial Conditions and Treatment to Occupational Therapy for Psychosocial Conditions and be changed to a three credit hour class. They would talk about psychosocial issues in the OTA setting. The existing course Neurological Conditions and Treatment along with Orthopedic Conditions & Treatments would now become Occupational Therapy for Physical Conditions and be a four credit hour class at this point. There is a proposal to begin a class called Special Topics and

Fieldwork which would set the stage for the Fieldwork II experiences. It would also be a good tool to see if the student is truly interested in a certain field prior to entering it. It also provides some forward looking and evidence based practice in COTA gathering data. This bridge should allow the student to prepare themselves for what will be expected of them on a weekly basis during Level II fieldwork and develop any of the areas where weaknesses were found. Contemporary Math is being proposed over Math for Business Careers with the reasoning being the use of quantitative issues that can be used in research along with the terms and the language that the student will be seeing.

The fourth semester consensus is that students are better off if all their coursework is completed. However the American Federal Government should stay there since at this stage there should be a political involvement in a variety of areas such as licensure issues, ethics and culture. There is a proposal to establish a fourth semester course that could be done online (possibly) and once a week meets in class. This would focus on plans, ethics, OTA evidence based issues and reinforcement of what they are doing in the fieldwork. This would be a time to get feedback from the other students and faculty.

The credit hours would now be changed from 62/63 to a total of 72/73 credit hours. Four of the ten extra credit hours were for A&P II. In twenty years there have been no substantive changes in the program and this change will be the equivalent of adding two OT classes (not counting A&P II). The total number of credit hours can now be compared to those required in nursing.

These are just proposals and the faculty are meeting with the College's Curriculum Committee liaison to present them. Upon finalization, the proposal will be sent to the Curriculum Committee in the fall for formal approval

- **Admission numbers**

The standard numbers for admissions per fall entry is 20, but the program has been admitting 23 to 24. We will propose going to 18 and start back with a spring entry for a yearly total of 36.

- **Full Time track**

The proposal for the changes would be effective Fall 2008.

- **Part Time track**

The proposal for the part-time track would begin in spring 2009. The handout will show how students will move through the part-time program which will be a three year program.

- **Impressions**

Tom asked for impressions of the proposed curriculum change and there was unanimous approval by all those present.

- **Other**

There have been two situations in the community; one is the news of Pauline Willouby a 1999 graduate of the program was murdered by her step-son two weeks ago. The college paper had done a very nice story on her.

The other situation concerned Lou Calhoun a graduate that works at Moore Public Schools. Her son was recently killed Iraq.

Marion Cappucio who has been battling cancer has died. The family had contacted Tom Kraft on who they needed to contact for setting up a scholarship at the College in her name.

New Building (Health Professions Education Center)

Tom asked that we all look out the window to see the progress of the new building. The walls for the new Health Professions are going up and above the main level is where the offices and the classrooms will be. The OTA will have additional storage available along with a separate supply room. The rooms were designed with 24 students in mind. They are very pleased with the additions. With weather permitting the new building should be complete in Fall 2008 with move in around Christmas time. Our existing offices have had construction going on since May 22nd in which the whole division offices have been packed up. This construction was to last for three weeks and as of today it is still not complete.

Tentative Next Meeting Date

- **August 17th, 2007 (Friday)**

Adjourn

Tom adjourned the meeting.