

Surgical Technologist Advisory Board Meeting

October 17, 2006

In attendance:

Debbie Argo
Diane Baker
Dan Bergman
Claudia Burton
Sally Gomez
Melissa Gordon
Lael Hargrave

Mary Hurt
Nancy Jones
Jana Johnson
Ryan Kohs
Dana Miles
Linda Miles
Myrna Moore

Debra Meyers
Nancy Rogers
John Scafe
Darrin Schmidt
Stephanie Simon
Kim Shannon

Welcome: Kim and Dana welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming. Each member introduced themselves to the group. We were happy to have several new members, Sally Gomez, Melissa Gordon, Lael Hargrave, Jana Johnson, and Linda Miles.

- **Minutes** from the April 25, 2006 meeting were reviewed by every member and accepted as correct.
- **Past Student Graduation Information:** Kim reported that 12 of the 18 students from last year passed their national CST exam. In the past we were not able to offer the test on campus, however, we were able to give the CST exam on the MNTC campus prior to graduation in May 2006. We used a proctor to administer the exam in our academic resource center. We are currently incorporating extra time within the curriculum to help prepare our current and future students to take this exam. Our goal is a 100% pass rate. Of the 18 graduates from class 8, all were offered full time employment within 2 months of graduation. Most were employed prior to graduating, but some waited to seek jobs until their HOSA competitions in Anaheim were over.
- **HOSA:** (Health Occupations Students of America) Eight of our students competed at Nationals in Anaheim California in June. They had all placed 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in their events at the state level. All 8 students placed in the top 10 of the nation! Our Bio Medical Debate team, Wade Jennings, Michael Armstrong, Scott Stephens, and Jeremy Flitton placed 1st, for Persuasive Speech, Amy Pinkerton took 3rd place, Michael Crawford placed 4th for Career Health Display, Orlando House was the 6th place winner for Prepared Speech, and 10th place in Medical Terminology was Sharlene Jackson. We are so very proud of all these students!

This year's class is very excited and are already preparing for the State competition in April. Kim advised that the HOSA organization is always looking for judges for these events and invited members to participate in the Spring

HOSA competition. We would love to see any or all of our advisory board members act as judges for some of the competitions. Please go to www.hosa.org/competitive_events.html to find out more about the specific competitions.

- **Class 9 Statistics:** This is our 9th class! We started the year with 20 students, 3 men and 17 women. We lost one student due to financial issues and have another who has had some major health issues that most likely will preclude them from finishing. A board member asked what the percentage of students is who take advantage of our affiliation with Oklahoma City Community College (OCCC). 100% of our students are co-enrolled. It is not an option in our class. MNYC pays for the hours and since there is no cost to students they all take advantage of earning 33 credit hours towards their associate degree. Another member asked how many applicants we had for this current class. We had approx 113 applicants with 48 actually completing the enrollment process.
- **Clinical Preceptor Training:** Kim and Dana handed out Clinical Preceptor handbooks for the member to review. Preceptor handbooks will be taken to all of our clinical sites. Other information about our program, student objectives, requirements, rules, and important phone numbers were given to each board member to review. These will all be distributed at our clinical sites to aid the preceptor with our students during clinical rotations. We will also be happy to in-service any of the clinical facility's staff prior to or during the student's rotations.
- **Clinical Rotations:** Since there are so many different Surgical Technology Programs, OU Medical Center educators requested that we all meet and bid for clinical sites at Presbyterian, Everett Tower, and Children's. This will eliminate the problem of too many students showing up at one site on the same day. We worked well together at sharing the sites and then sat down as a group and agreed upon a list of objectives for all students and preceptors. It was further agreed by each program and the educators of OU Medical Center that if these objectives are not met by a student, that student will be sent back to school and their instructor(s) will be contacted immediately.

Our students will begin their clinical rotations January 3, 2007. We are currently seeking several new clinical sites more on the periphery of our district to accommodate those students who live in the surrounding areas of the metro.

- **OKSA Updates** - The Oklahoma State Assembly of Surgical Technologist: Dana Fuller is the newly elected president of OKSA. Dana stated that it is very important that we maintain the OKSA assembly. OKSA represents all of us and it allows us to have a voice on a national level to express our concerns and issues. She stated how important it is to encourage the surgical technology students to become involved. Every certified program across Oklahoma registers their students in AST, so we have access to them for one year.

OKSA holds two seminars a year. One in the fall and one in the spring. This year's spring's conference was at the MNTC Penn Campus. We had a great turnout. The fall conference was held in Tulsa and was our first two-day seminar. Everyone that attended had the privilege of hearing 11 speakers on a large variety of topics, and those who attended earned 11 continuing education points.

Dana informed the group that she is looking for guest speakers for the spring 2007 meeting. Anyone interested should contact her for further meeting information.

As president of the OKSA organization, Dana will be working on having state mandated licensing and certification of all surgical technologists. This legislation would grandfather in the current surgical technologists but would require mandatory licensing for future surgical technologists. This would ensure more qualified surgical technologist in our operating room. This would also hold Surgical Technologists accountable for their actions. At this time there is no accountability for the quality of work we do.

Dana passed out copies of the Florida State Assembly legislative webpage that contained a copy of the House bill that would demand certification of Surgical technologists. It contained quotes from the CDC concerning infection rates and how properly trained techs could lower those rates.

Dana also passed out a copy of the article she wrote and submitted to the Norman Transcript. It will be published sometime this week.

- **New Equipment:** We recently purchased enough baskets and caskets and metal time-out tents to be able to use in each of our mock surgeries. Kim advised that the program still needs an endo tower, endo and laparoscopic equipment and instruments. An insufflator will be the most costly and will require compressed air in order to use it properly. A Stryker sales rep was suggested as a contact for some used endo equipment, and the entire board agreed that the teaching of endoscopic surgeries is a must. The student needs to have some hands on experience with the cameras and scopes prior to entering a clinical site.

At this time Kim and Dana share their classroom area which does not provide privacy for either instructor. We discussed the need to for an area to counsel students, and to work while the other instructor is lecturing or in charge of the class. As it is now, the lecturing instructor is frequently interrupted by the other instructor as they attempt to take care of phone calls, orders, etc. After taking a tour of our classroom and lab area, the advisory members said that an office that offers some privacy is a necessity.

We are also looking for someone to help prepare students for the Pharmacology portion of their certification test. Anyone interested please contact Kim or Dana.

- **Open Discussion:** Was held throughout the evening.