

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT PROGRAM

April 15, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT: Shirley Fuentes – Chairperson, Jennifer Gregg, Velevia Snyder, Melissa Adams, Amanda Rios, Eric Bass, Donna Ward

EX-OFFICIO'S PRESENT: Sheree Talkington, Jennie Sparks, Kim Crowley, Cherie Clifton

1. Welcome – Fuentes welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made around the table.
2. Minutes – The minutes of the April 9, 2009, were approved as written.
3. Continuing Health Care Education – Crowley stated the continuing health care education department has changed its focus. The primary focus has been on nursing, but would like to expand CE offerings to all health programs. Crowley has been visiting with the allied health directors to find out what sort of seminars and/or workshops would be beneficial to the program as well as the community.
4. Division Advisor & Counselor – Clifton reported that summer and fall registration started April 12. Perspective OTA students seem to be re-careering, or right out of high school. Spring Fling will be May 6 at the west campus. Students, faculty and staff will be enjoying music, food, and games from 11:00-1:30. The theme this year is Retro 70's and selling tie dye t-shirts. Feel free to come and enjoy the festivities with us!
5. Student Reports – Ashley Carter, sophomore, reported that she really enjoys Amarillo College. The west campus grounds are very well taken care of, the staff is very helpful, the instructors are great and the cost to take classes is very reasonable. A few concerns are the west campus cafeteria does not take debit or credit cards (check or cash only). Also, when the OTA students are taking 7 credit hours the students are attending class and fieldwork, Monday through Friday 8:00-5:00. Financial Aid does not consider that full-time because it is only considered 7 credit hours – does not seem quite fair.

Adam Andrada, freshman, reported that he really enjoys Amarillo College as well. He is thankful that the students have a chance to express their feelings and share their thoughts. He knows that the bookstore sells scantrons, but was wondering if there was a way that an office in this building could sell scantrons or install a vending machine that sell scantrons? Also, is there any way that an ATM machine could be put in one of the buildings at the West Campus? Clifton interjected that she has been trying to get an ATM out here and will check on the status. Andrada added that it would be nice if services

provided by AC Police could be distributed to the students. The students are now required to be a part of “Professional Dress Day”. At first the students did not care for it but it has been a good learning experience for them.

6. Director’s Report - Talkington reported that the site visit went well and there were only 8 issues of noncompliance and those are being rectified. The program received their full 7-year accreditation status! ***Way to go Sheree and Jennie!***

There will be 10 students graduating in May and fourteen freshmen that will become sophomores in the fall. They are currently taking applications for the fall semester. There have been some issues with COTA’s renewing their license online and those issues have not been resolved. Maybe there is a glitch in the system?

Changes to take place in the program’s curriculum this fall, and approved by Academic Affairs:

- OTHA 2262: Clinical III is now a 2 hour course instead of a 1 hour course.
- OTHA 1349: Occupational Performance of Adulthood was added to the curriculum.
- OTHA 1353: Occupational Performance of Elders is now a 3 hour course instead of a 2 hour course.
- OTHA 2309: Mental Health in OT was deleted from the curriculum (mental health will be incorporated in each of the performance courses).
- OTHA 1211: Occupational Performance throughout the Life Span was deleted from the curriculum.

Also, Talkington would like to add more “soft skills” training in the classroom. These would entail leadership skills, supervisory relationships, professionalism, work ethics, etc. Crawford added that the college is working on a course that would incorporate all of these items.

Talkington asked members of the committee if they would like to sign up to be on subcommittees. The subcommittees are WEB, Academics, Fieldwork, and Continuing Education. A sign-up sheet for each subcommittee was passed around.

Talkington would like to add an electronic application process to the program and she will work on getting that accomplished.

7. Faculty Report – Sparks reported that the COTA Club has raised lots of money selling t-shirts, and having raffles.
8. Affiliation Reports

It was mentioned that the OTA website was not up-to-date. Talkington added that she is working on updating that website. It was suggested by a committee member that the students get more involved with the community during OT month. Also, it was suggested that the students have an orientation day with their clinic site before they arrive. Snyder said it would be nice to have at least a list of the student's names ahead of time. It was also suggested that Talkington meet with the CI's or have a telephone conference around mid-term to discuss the student's progress in their fieldwork.

9. Dean of Health Sciences – Crawford reported that Governor Perry has asked all community colleges and universities to give back 5% this year, and 5% next year. AC did raise tuition to help cover part of that expense. They are also looking at programs that continually have low enrollment, and OTA is one of those programs, as well as a few other Allied Health Programs. Crawford added that the two instructors do a great job recruiting this program but asked each committee member to help with recruitment when they are out in the community.
10. Adjournment – Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:10 a.m.

Minutes were recorded by Kim Lacey, Executive Secretary.
