

**RADIATION THERAPY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES – April 26, 2005 @ 3:30 P.M.**

**Members Present:** Dr. Stafford, Judy Massie, Larissa Gilliland

**Ex-Officio's Present:** Tony Tackitt, Susan McClure

1. Welcome – Massie, Chairperson, welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Introductions – Introductions were made around the table.
3. Minutes - The minutes of the May 3, 2004, meeting were approved as written.
4. Continuing Health Care Education – Absent
5. Allied Health Counselor – McClure reminded everyone that registration for summer and fall started April 18. Many students have shown an interest in all the allied health programs. Tackitt asked McClure that when advising students that he would like to see the student before and after they make application to the program. Also, he would like the student take the Biology A&P I and II. Massie added that she will be offering Medical Terminology I on-line in the fall and will take 100 students.
6. Student Representative Report – Gilliland said that the only thing she has to report is that it is either too hot or too cold in room 100A. She also added that she and other students did not like the “wheel of misfortune” at Harrington Cancer Center, said it was intimidating.
7. Director's Report – Tackitt reported that he still accepts 10 students every fall and has about 53 applications thus far. The application deadline is May 31, 2005. From now on, all applicants will go through an interview process. Tackitt wanted to respond to some of the comments that were made by the student representative at the last meeting. One, the student's felt that the Nuclear Medicine rotation was too long. Tackitt said that the Nuclear Medicine rotation is only 4 hours within a two year period - it cannot get any shorter. Secondly, the students felt that the PET rotation was too long also. He said that he could possibly reduce the PET hours and will look into it. The job market has tightened up. There is an on-line Radiation Therapy program that graduates 100 students a year and has heard that the graduates do not know much; and one facility who hired a graduate said that they would not hire another one. Starting 2009, all program directors will have to have a Master's degree. Dale Barker, the programs new CI who works at Harrington Cancer Center is doing a great job with students! The programs lab instructor quit and Tackitt

said that he was not able to find anyone to take her place, which means that he will have to teach the labs. Tackitt would like to have the Sophomores mentor the Freshmen in lab and that he would facilitate in the lab when needed.

Program Data 2005 – Tackitt reported the following:

1. Program pass rate of at least 85% over 5 year period on A.R.R.T. examination.
  - 100% (8/8; 2 not yet taken the exam)
2. 100% of the graduates will pass comprehensive "Exit" examination before they will be allowed to graduate.
3. The program will exhibit a job placement rate of not less than 75% within 6 months of graduation over the previous 5 years
  - 80% (8/10) Two grads have not actively sought employment in the field
4. Students will maintain passing grades in their clinical rotations, thereby demonstrating a proficiency level consistent with an entry level radiation therapist. ARRT comps to be passed.
  - Benchmark met
5. 90% of graduates/employers will rate the program overall as good or excellent (rating 3 or 4 on Lickert scale). 80% or more of graduates and employers will rate every item on the survey as good or excellent.
  - Benchmark met (100%)
6. Min. 90% of graduate surveys will indicate that student met their educational goal
  - Benchmark met (100%)
7. Maintain an average course completion rate of not less than 75% over a 5 year period.
  - Benchmark met 95%
8. Maintain a program retention rate of no less than 75% over a 5 year period.
  - 2003-04 academic year: 90% (19/21)
  - 2004-05: 100%
  - 5 yr period:  $48/55=87\%$
9. At least 90% of program graduates earn degree within 3 years time once formally accepted and enrolled in the program. Reasons for not completing the curriculum within 3 years will be documented and brought before the Advisory Committee for discussion.
  - Benchmark met 100%
10. 100% of the graduates will pass exit examination before they will be allowed to graduate.
  - Benchmark met: students must pass exit exam to graduate
11. 80% of students will successfully complete, or withdraw passing, each lab course during the curriculum.
  - Benchmark met 100%

12. 80% of students will successfully complete, or withdraw passing, each Practicum course during the curriculum.
  - Benchmark met 100%
13. 80% of students in Intro course will successfully complete all aspects of the course
  - Benchmark met 100%
14. 100% of students will successfully complete Interpersonal Communications (or other acceptable speech course) before graduation.
  - Benchmark met (graduation requirement)
15. 90% of employer surveys will rate performance as good or excellent in areas of communication, critical thinking/problem-solving.
  - Benchmark met 100% (2003 grads)
16. 90% of graduate surveys will rate personal performance as good or excellent in areas of communication, critical thinking/problem-solving.
  - Benchmark met 100% (2003 grads)
17. 50% of graduates at the time of program completion will report on exit interview/survey a personal goal to continue their education after graduation.
  - Benchmark met  $7/8 = 88\%$
18. 100% of students will be informed about various professional organizations within the field in their first semester as accepted students in the program
  - Benchmark met 100% (Intro course requirement, with quizzes)
19. 100% of students will be informed about various professional organizations within the field in their first semester as accepted students in the program
  - Benchmark met 100% (Intro course requirement, with quizzes)
20. 90% of employer surveys will rate performance as good or excellent in areas of communication, critical thinking/problem-solving.
  - Benchmark met: 100%
21. 90% of student surveys will rate performance as good or excellent in areas of psychomotor skills as a result of their training.
  - Benchmark met: 100%
22. 100% of students will complete all of ARRT required and additional program required competencies before graduating from program.
  - Benchmark met: 100% (curriculum requirement)
23. All laboratory /clinical requirements will be met before student can graduate. 100% of students will make "C" or above in all clinical courses and all technical labs.
  - Benchmark met (curriculum requirement)

PROGRAM MISSION AND GOALS – Tackitt reported the following:

The Radiation therapy program is a unique health care program providing a valuable resource for the community to educate personnel to treat cancer. In keeping with the mission of Amarillo College, the Radiation therapy program has a mission “To provide a comprehensive curriculum that will enable each graduate to perform the duties and responsibilities of an entry level radiation therapist.” Consequently, accomplishing this mission is measured and evaluated to the degree to which the program achieves the following goals:

1. Maintain programmatic accreditation through the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiological Technology (JRCERT) and adopt technical competency requirements equal to or in excess of American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) requirements.
2. Program graduates should be able to successfully write for and successfully complete the national certification examination given by the ARRT.
3. Students will be able to successfully complete the comprehensive program "Exit Examination" at the end of the curricular training. Graduates will go on to fill local/regional/national needs for certified radiation therapists.
4. The program will prepare the students for the clinical responsibilities of an entry-level radiation therapist.
5. The program will review its mission & goals annually
6. Program graduates and employers will describe satisfaction with the program.
7. The program will demonstrate adequate retention rates with students completing the program in a timely manner
8. The program will provide an educational environment that promotes (affective) communication skills, critical thinking/problem solving skills and lifelong learning.
9. The program will provide a curriculum that promotes cognitive competency with a curriculum that encompasses didactic subject matter required by JRCERT
10. The program will provide a curriculum that promotes psychomotor competency.

8. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 P.M.

*Minutes were written and submitted by Kim Lacey, Administrative Assistant.*

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