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DENTAL HYGIENE ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Thursday October 8, 2020

6:00 PM Virtual

Attending:

TCDH:V. Kimbrough; E. Hershkowitz; G. Gardner; D. Champion; C. Adriano; V. Vanadis (2nd yr Student); L. Minor; K. Richards; D. Bogle

Community: J. Starr Westside Health; Dr. Walker, DDS; Dr. Nunez, DDS;

Minutes

1. Welcome – Introductions
2. Program update
   1. Student cohorts

Currently the first-year group has 18 students. Two dropeed for personal issues, and a few are struggling. The 2nd year group has 19.

* 1. Applications for 2020

The program will move forward with taking a new cohort for August 2021. Kimbrough reported that some programs are skipping one year in order to manage the requirements of clinic based on COVID-19.

* 1. Pre-req’s for future applicants

A discussion took place regarding increasing the overall acceptance GPA for all courses from 2.0 to 2.5. Kimbrough reported that similarly-sized programs are at 2.5 or higher. The Class of 2022 lost 5 students in the first semester. Three for personal issues, and two have a high proabability of failing the semester. Content comprehension and retention seems to be a recurring issue in each cohort over the past 5 years. Written board pass rates are not at 100% on the first attempt. In 2017 six students failed, in 2018 one failure occurred, in 2019 six failures and 2020 remains to be seen. COVID-19 has lengthened the time of board exams.

Historically the program has not been over the national average score on the written exam in all topics. Results fluctuate, yet the majority of topics are below national average.

The committee requested a retrospective analysis of GPA correlated to drops, failures and pass rates. Kimbrough will continue with gathering information.

* 1. Faculty/staff- updates and needs

The program is fully staffed at this time. With COVID-19 and splitting the cohorts in half for clinic, more adjunct clinic instructors and dentists will be needed for Spring 2021.

* 1. Clinic and COVID Mgmt

Dr. Kimbrough updated the committee on the requirements to return to work amid COVID-19. Temperature checks for students, and patients, checking in patients from parking lot, elimination of all aerosol producing equipment and procedures until N95s could be acquired and fit tested. The student cohorts were divided in half for all clinic courses in order to decrease the number of people in one space based on State and Federal mandates or guidelines. A respiratory protection program was implemented based on that done by the CA Dental Assn.

Student and faculty were orientated and trained on all areas prior to returning to campus on June 29.

1. Other: none

Next Meeting: April 2021- Virtual/Zoom