



Advisory Committee
MEETING NOTES

Present: Dr. Rich Hunter, Dr. David Tajima, Dr. Zenitra Kumar, Dr. Lisa Beck-Uhl, Dr. Daniel Nobel, Dr. Suzanne Berger, Linda Lacunza, Susan McDonald, Dr. Richard Enriquez, Dr. Keith Johnson,

Absent: Dr. Raffi Najarian, Chrystal Costello, Christina Campos, Cynthia Bjornrud

Meeting Date: Monday, October 8, 2024 Approval of Minutes from: 10/23/2023

Recorded By: Susan McDonald

AN = Action Needed

AT = Action Taken

D = Discussion

I = Information Only

	TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION NEEDED	ACCJC STANDARD
I.	Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM		
II.	Approval of Minutes	Review of minutes from 10/23/2023		
III.	Program update and approval of B.S. in Dental Hygiene	Susan thanked SB/VC Dental Society President, Dr. Nobel and SB/VD Dental Society Executive Director, Linda Lacunza for inviting Oxnard College Dental faculty to join their Executive Board meeting. She gave a brief update on the status of the DH baccalaureate program development and went over the 3 upper division general education courses that will be included in the program. She emphasized that the course selection was based on both Advisory Committee and faculty concerns about the student’s lack of communication skills, lack of social skills, and lack of critical thinking skills.		

The new upper division GE courses will include:

Organizational Communication which addresses the fundamental theories of communication and the effects on socialization, teamwork, and leadership as well as understanding the ethical perspectives of communication.

Optimizing Health Across the Lifespan: Key Considerations explores the contributions of biological and environmental factors to health and human development and assesses the implications of health disparities and cultural considerations in healthcare.

Research Design & Methodology emphasizes the development of critical thinking skills and prepares students to evaluate scientific evidence-based literature and develop a research project.

She also explained that the SLO's and learning objectives for all major coursework in the dental hygiene curriculum were strengthened to increase the level of critical thinking and independent decision-making and were approved by the Oxnard College Curriculum Committee, CODA, Dental Hygiene Board of California, and the California Community College Chancellors Office upon approval of the proposed Bachelor of Science Degree in Dental Hygiene.

The committee approved the Bachelor of Science Degree in Dental Hygiene as presented.

AT

Susan reported that the Metallica Foundation, All Within My Hands, followed up their initial grant of \$100,000 last year with a \$50,000 grant this year which provided scholarships for the students in Oxnard's Culinary, Fire, and Dental Hygiene programs.

Also discussed were challenges faced when trying to find qualified faculty to fill open positions in the Dental Hygiene Program. Positions for both part-time and full-time faculty will be open in the fall due to potential retirements and the loss of current clinic faculty who will no longer meet the qualifications to teach in a baccalaureate program

		<p>without a master's or doctoral degree. The duties of an attending/supervising dentist for the clinics and labs were also discussed and all were encouraged to contact Susan if interested in applying, or could recommend potential candidates, for teaching positions in the program.</p> <p>In addressing the dentist's concerns that the program is overlooking many qualified students due to the lottery, Susan informed the committee of several revisions in the selection process. The rubric currently in use includes an in-person interview, shadowing requirements in a dental office, writing samples, GPA, strength of curriculum, and involvement in extra-curricular activities and/or leadership positions. Likewise, to ensure fairness, all categories are uniformly applied to each applicant, avoid subjective or culturally biased criteria, and incorporate strategies to recognize and value different pathways of achievement.</p>		
IV.	Labor market update	<p>Linda Lacunza encouraged both dental assistants and dental hygienists to sign up on the SB/VC Dental Society job board. Linda also reminded all that the OC Dental Programs would not be in place without the SB/VC Dental Society steering committee's support and their significant financial investment. She reiterated how important it was to prioritize the local Dental Society members when posting job opportunities due to their vested interest and ongoing support for the program. Susan let Linda know that she would send her an article to include in their quarterly newsletter to encourage the SB/VC Dental Society members to contact her via email with the specifics of job opportunities that she could then forward to the alumni.</p> <p>Dr. Tajima suggested another attempt at scheduling a meet and greet to network and make professional connections with the future graduates. The attempt at a gathering last year conflicted with the students pinning ceremony so advanced planning for this year's social was encouraged.</p> <p>Dr. Hunter confirmed that many offices are still seeking dental hygienists, but that OC graduates are demanding wages that are comparable to experienced hygienists which many are not willing to pay. Susan mentioned that she was not aware of any faculty encouraging them to make specific demands for wages when interviewing, however "experienced hygienists" in the area have admitted that they are encouraging the graduates to ask for the same wages they are making so they wouldn't undercut their wages or take their jobs.</p>		

		<p>Dr. Johnson mentioned that the cost of living in Ventura is very high and that minimum wage workers are making \$20/hour, dental assistants are making \$30-35/hour, and corporations are offering benefits, so he felt it was understandable that the graduates are expecting comparable wages to what most hygienist in the area are making in private practices.</p>		
V.	Work based learning opportunities	<p>Dr. Hunter reiterated his invitation for students to shadow him and/or his hygienist and to call the office to set a time. He also said he would be happy to be a guest speaker again in the spring.</p> <p>Dr. Tajima also said he would welcome OC students into his office to shadow his hygienist. He also informed the committee that the reason Oxnard College was not having any luck establishing a relationship with the local VA Dental Clinic, is that the veterans are no longer being treated by students. The VA is requiring that licensed professionals provide dental treatment. Dr. Tajima teaches at UCLA and has experienced the impact of this change. Both dental students and dental hygiene students are no longer able to treat veterans in their clinic.</p> <p>Dr. Zenitra Kumar, who works at the Neighborhood Dental Clinics in Santa Barbara where we occasionally refer our patients, has seen an influx of veterans visiting their clinics and despite welcoming our patients, admitted that it would likely take a couple of months for our patients to be seen.</p> <p>Dr. Nobel, who specializes in Pediatric Dentistry, said he would be happy to come to the OC Dental Health Clinic to assist with supervision and offer guidance for providing pediatric care. Discussion ensued with a proposal to check the Oxnard Unified District School schedule and pick a clinic day that coincided with a day that the students were not scheduled to be in school. With advanced notice to parents of the opportunity to treat children aged 5-12 at no cost in our clinic, he felt we would get a great turn out.</p>		
VI.	Faculty Reports	<p>Dr. Enriquez expressed his appreciation for the special opportunity to meet and hear from so many new members.</p> <p>Susan discussed the clinic day in October that was devoted to treating patients with special needs. Dr. Johnson was recognized for his assistance in preparing the students to welcome 16 patients from Anacapa Adult Transition School into our clinic.</p>		

			The collaboration with the school, which is on the Channel Islands High School campus across the street, is a relationship we hope to continue.		
VII.	Adjournment		Meeting was adjourned at 7:00PM		