

**Technical College High School**  
**Animal Science & Technology**  
Occupational Advisory Committee  
March 10, 2011

**MINUTES**

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The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Bryan Crowl, Chairperson.  
Those members in attendance were:

Sonny Farwell, Bryan Crowl, Ester Crowl, Rebecca Miller, Brooke Irwin, Karen Irwin,  
Steve Fecik and Joan Farwell

Members of this committee not in attendance were:

Steve Benigni, Deb Benner, Michele Brotnitsky, Denise Chroscinski, Hope Crowl,  
Charles Foster, Linda Fritz,  
Jacque Harms, Bryan Irwin,  
Sue Lindborg, Mike  
Sidelsky, and David Snyder

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes were approved by Ester Crowl and seconded by Sonny Farwell.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Joan gave an update on the outstanding punch list items:

The light cycle timers for the animal holding rooms were installed and are operational.  
Edstrom has been contacted regarding a quote for automatic watering and we are waiting  
for an answer.

There continues to be talk about the carpentry program building a storage shed for animal  
science but no start date has been determined.

The narrow width of the procedure room and the rabbit room doors remains an  
outstanding safety issue after 3 years. The Principal, Mr. Katch, has not been to visit  
Animal Science on a rabbit change day and stay for the entire process as requested by the  
OAC at the Fall meeting.

No work has begun on the installation of an exhaust fan in the washroom.

Animal mannequins to practice bleeding techniques can be purchased from UC Davis.  
The Vascular Access Training Models (VATMs) cost \$480.00 for a canine head and  
\$325 for a canine foreleg. Replacement skin and tubing are also available.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Warren McKeon will replace Linda Fritz as the OAC representative from  
GlaxoSmithKline.

Joan showed a new textbook entitled "Veterinary Assisting Fundamentals &  
Applications" to the committee. This textbook was co-authored by Beth Vanhorn, who

has the only Veterinary Assistant program that is certified by the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association (PVMA). The textbook is very extensive and covers all the material on the new NOCTI Small Animal test. The OAC agreed to adopt this textbook for the next school year. This textbook will be purchased by the students to use and keep as a reference text after graduation. The list price of the book is around \$80.00 but may actually cost less with a quantity and school discount. The cost of the textbook will be included in the program fees.

Joan reported that TCHS will pilot the new Small Animal NOCTI test during the week of March 21. Twenty-five juniors and seniors will participate. At least four judges will be needed to complete the performance portion of the test in one day. Sonny Farwell and Liz DiSabatino (student teacher from last year) have already agreed to be judges. Two of the lab technician's from the Delaware County Community College have tentatively agreed to help as well.

Joan reported that there is no money budgeted for feed and bedding for the animals and that the Animal Science program has to look for ways to fundraise to support the program. Deb Benner from Animal Specialties and Provisions has agreed to allow TCHS to purchase broken bags of feed and bedding as it is available from them at \$2.50 per bag. They are also going to donate a raffle basket to sell chances to the students and teachers as a means of offsetting the cost of keeping the animals. Joan said that they will start offering dog-grooming services to the TCHS staff to raise money as well.

The OAC requests a break down on the Animal Science budget and wants to know why there is no money budgeted for a program that requires animals for competencies. The committee wants to know if other programs are also required to fundraise for supplies to run their programs. The committee feels that with an enrollment of 45 students, there should be enough money from tuition to cover the cost of feed, bedding and chemicals to care for the animals used for training.

Bryan mentioned that the Pet Place in Avondale offers rabies clinics monthly and that this could be an excellent place to contact about job shadowing and co-op opportunities. Joan agreed to look into it.

New equipment for next year should include several VATMs; a computer and software to maintain grooming and inventory records; and more electric clippers and grooming equipment to set up grooming boxes for four teams of students. Consideration about renovations to the existing facility to enable a laboratory space, a possible operating room for spay and neuter clinics, and more room for housing of rabbits, and exercise and interaction for cats need to be discussed.

## **MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

Once again illness and travel for business prevented most members from industry from attending the meeting. Meeting minutes and other correspondence will be sent via e-mail to those members unable to attend for their review and comment.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

October 2011

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Joan Farwell for Rebecca Miller, Secretary