

**Technical College High School**  
**Animal Science & Technology**  
Occupational Advisory Committee  
October 20, 2011

**MINUTES**

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The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Bryan Crowl, Chairperson.

Those members in attendance were:

Michele Brotnitsky, Ester Crowl, Joan Farwell, Sonny Farwell, Steve Fecik, Linda Fritz Brooke Irwin, Karen Irwin, Sue Lindborg, Rebecca Miller, Ruth Osborn, Kate Stab and Penny Stab

Members of this committee not in attendance were:

Steve Benigni, Deb Benner, Denise Chroscinski, Charles Foster, Jacque Harms, Mike Sidelsky, and David Snyder

Greetings to new OAC members – Ruth Osborn, student Kate Stab and mother Penny Stab

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes were approved by Karen Irwin and seconded by Sue Lindborg.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

At the request of the Committee, Principal Michael Katch, joined the meeting. Bryan Crowl asked Mike why no response was ever given to why some of the items on the original punch list from the facility opening have not been addressed. Mike said that he was able to have a floor installed last year and light timer switches installed this year. Bryan said that the Committee was appreciative of those items being addressed but wanted to know what was happening in regard to the exhaust fan in the washroom, the narrow doors in the rabbit room and procedure room, and the lack of storage space for caging and equipment. Mike said that given the economy many of those higher priced items were out of his control. But, if we would get an updated and prioritized list to him that he would make certain to contact the appropriate people and get us answers to those issues. It was suggested by the Committee that we check with the Carpentry program to see if the doorframe issue could be remedied in house. It was also suggested that we contact the HVAC program in regards to the exhaust fan installation in the washroom. The outside storage shed will also be taken up with the Carpentry program for their input and possible involvement. Mike requested an updated priority list of outstanding punch list items.

The updated priority list is as follows:

1. Exhaust fan
2. Storage shed in courtyard away from where exhaust fan would be located
3. Expanded doors

Assistant Principal Brian Hughes visited the meeting and was immediately asked to

explain why there is no budget for feed and bedding for the animals. The question among the Committee being how do you have an Animal Science program without animals and how do you maintain animals without feed and bedding? The Committee would like to know who made the decision to cut these necessities out of the Animal Science budget. Brian assured the Committee that this matter would be looked into and that he, personally, would report back to the Committee with an answer.

At the fall 2010 OAC meeting, the Committee had requested “that the Principal visit Animal Science on a rabbit change day and stay for the entire process. The continued need for an exhaust fan in the washroom is most evident on rabbit changing days when the use of the acid descaler makes it difficult for the students to breath without coughing.” To date, the Principal has not been down to Animal Science to observe the process. The Committee asked Brian what could be done to make this happen. Brian agreed to come down the next week on rabbit change day. Linda reported that allergies and asthma are significant occupational health hazards in animal industries. If the ventilation system is not working properly, we are exposing our students to health issues that can negatively impact their continued employment in this field.

There was a lengthy discussion about the need for the program to do fundraising to pay for feed and bedding of the animals. The Committee questioned why, with the number of students enrolled in the program, was there still a need to do so much fundraising in the form of four weeks of dog washing throughout the year. The Committee feels that the tuition being paid for the students in this program should be covering their education as opposed to the students spending their education time washing dogs for fundraising. The Committee wants to know how much the budget is and how the budgets for the various programs are allocated? Is the budget determined by program or by number of students enrolled in the program? Are the funds the same for a program with only 10 students enrolled as for a program with 40 students enrolled? And is a program, like our Animal Science program that requires the additional expense of maintaining live animals and the equipment necessary for safety, allocated funds the same as programs where there is little maintenance required to maintain their programs? Finally, the committee suggests that Joan have some oversight of her budget, and possibly use it as part of a lesson plan on facility management. In the very least, Joan should have input on the budgetary priorities for her program.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Linda Fritz introduced Ruth Osborn as a new representative from GlaxoSmithKline. Linda will continue to serve on the Committee through this school year.

Joan reported that the textbooks being used this year for theory are the new Veterinary Assisting Fundamentals & Applications textbook approved by the Committee at the spring OAC meeting. The students purchased their own textbooks this year and it appears to be working out well. Lessons will also be supplemented with activities from the Cornell Veterinary Science workbook. Seniors are still completing the PMI Laboratory Animal Care Certification Course. Juniors will no longer be using the Learning for Earning textbook and workbook but will participate in the FEMA Animals in Disasters Independent Study Programs to obtain additional certifications. Seniors will also be obtaining those FEMA certifications this year.

Last year, all the Junior and Senior students participated in the pilot Small Animal Science NOCTI. This year will be the first year for the Small Animal Science NOCTI. Steve, Joan, Sonny and Linda will participate on a team to determine the cut scores for this new assessment.

We will continue with the current approved competency list until we succeed in securing PVMA accreditation for our Veterinary Assistant program and then we will revise the task list to align with the PVMA and NOCTI competency lists.

We will be participating in many contests and competitions this year. The local SkillsUSA competitions will be held at TCHS during the first week in December. Next spring, we will compete in the Eastern Region FFA Vet Skills contest and in the Laboratory Animal Science & Technology Seminar poster contest.

We are planning a field trip to the Philadelphia Zoo on November 14th and to the Pennsylvania Farm Show in January 2012.

Enrollment figures for the 2011-2012 school year: 22 students in AM/17 students in PM.

**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

N/A

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

March 2012

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Minutes submitted by: Joan Farwell for Rebecca Miller, Secretary