

Technical College High School
Animal Science & Technology
Occupational Advisory Committee
March 13, 2012

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Bryan Crowl, Chairperson.
Those members in attendance were:

Deb Benner, Bill Clarke, Brian Crowl, Ester Crowl, Joan Farwell, Sonny Farwell, Steve Fecik, Brooke Irwin, Karen Irwin, Sue Lindborg, Rebecca Miller, Kate Stab and Penny Stab

Members of this committee not in attendance were:

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

Greetings to new OAC member – Bill Clarke
Special thanks to retiring OAC member – David Snyder

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved by Sonny Farwell and seconded by Steve Fecik

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

At the beginning of the meeting, Principal Michael Katch and Assistant Principal Brian Hughes joined the meeting. Mike responded the Committee's questions from the fall meeting in regard to program budgets and student tuition. Mike said that each program is given a set amount of money for the year regardless of the number of students in that program. The money is not allotted according to number of students in the program. Mike claimed that he has spent over \$11,000.00 on the Animal Science program this year and has always approved any request for money by Joan. Additionally, Mike explained that there wasn't any money available at this time to change the door openings. Mike mentioned that Brian Hughes did visit on rabbit unit changing day to witness the existing conditions and the procedures followed.

Joan reported that the exhaust fan installation has been approved and will happen this summer. The Committee is appreciative that this issue is being addressed.

The Committee feels strongly that the expanded doors into the procedure room and rabbit holding room is a safety priority and needs to be addressed. The Carpentry teacher said the scope of this work is beyond the abilities of his program. Sonny will bring an outside contractor in to give an estimate on what the work will cost. Steve suggested that we find out what is happening to the stainless steel caging at CAT-Brandywine. If it is not being taken to the new facility in Downingtown, then we should scrap it and use the money to correct the doorframe issue.

Joan reported that the Carpentry teacher said that his students could build a storage shed in the courtyard. He is working up a quote that will be submitted to administration for

consideration. The location of the shed should be adjacent to the overhang or will require a walkway to move the caging, as the units will not roll easily across the grass.

Joan announced that there would be nontraditional student swap day in April to expose students to programs that they would not usually consider for themselves due to a gender bias.

NEW BUSINESS

Joan reported that the new textbooks were lacking in depth of material in some areas. Joan needed to add information for her lessons to the animal sections from the Small Animal Care and Management book. Overall, the students really like the books and enjoy owning their on book. Bryan mentioned that the graduating students could donate their textbooks back to the school for future students to use. The new AALAS Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician manual and workbook will be used next year. Joan is going to submit to Donors Choose to see if she can get the textbooks funded.

Joan also reported that the junior and senior students have been successful in obtaining their FEMA certifications in the Animals in Disasters Independent Study Programs this year. So each student will have three additional certifications when they graduate.

Joan reported that ten seniors took the NOCTI tests this year. She thanked Sonny and Karen for their help judging the performance tests. Scores will be out later this month. Sonny, Steve and Joan participated on the team to determine the cut scores for both the Small Animal Science and the Animal Production NOCTI assessments.

At the November in-service, the three animal science teachers revised the current approved competency list to align with the Small Animal Science NOCTI competency list. No progress has been made in securing PVMA accreditation for our Veterinary Assistant program as the PVMA refuses to communicate with us.

Twelve students competed in the local SkillsUSA competitions. Three of these students went on the district competition. Holly Decker won (gold) Job Demonstration A, Kacey Haldaway got third (bronze) in Job Demonstration A, and Brennan O'Connell got second (silver) in Action Skills. Holly will go to state competition April 17-19. We will take a team of 4 to the FFA Interview CDE in Limerick on March 28th; a team of 8 to the Eastern Region FFA Vet Skills CDE on May 8th; and a team of 10 to the Eastern Region FFA Wildlife CDE on May 8th.

We took a field trip to the Philadelphia Zoo on November 14th and to the Pennsylvania Farm Show on January 10, 2012. The students from Animal Science and Wildlife competed in a Zoo sponsored contest entitled UNLESS which is geared at increasing public awareness to the plight of the orangutan in the wild. We placed in the top 10 and should hear the judging results by April 16th.

Enrollment figures for the 2011-2012 school year: 23 students in AM/17 students in PM.

Due to the large number of students in the program and the six separate areas in the facility, the Committee requests that a full-time Instructional Assistant be assigned to the

Animal Science & Technology program for next year. Additionally, the Committee requests that a substitute be assigned when the Instructional Assistant is out.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

N/A

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

October 2012

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Joan Farwell for Rebecca Miller, Secretary