Citrus College Registered Dental Assisting Program
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 20, 2008  PC 215

Present:  Dawn Rodriguez, Karissa Harding, Michelle Martinez, Sanford King, Michael Mulvehill, Arnold Valdez, Steven Bowen, Maureen Estrada, Eric Rabitoy, Marti DeYoung, Claudia Pohl, Dora Arredondo, Tanya Cusick

Welcome and Introductions
New faculty member Tanya Cusick, Student representative Dawn Rodriguez and Career and Technical Education supervisor Marti DeYoung were introduced.

Student Statistics
Graduates
23 students graduated for 2007 (up 20% from 2006). 20 students have taken RDA Exam; 19 have passed. (1 student took April 07, 14 students took summer exam, 5 students took 2.08 exam). 20 of the 23 are working, 4 are continuing their education.

Advanced Students
27 students (up 25% from 1.07) are advanced and are in clinical training offices and are on track to graduate June 07 and/or complete 1 or 2 classes. Will graduate a total of 27 students this year, a 16% increase.

Continuing Students
12 students are continuing, 3 of whom are retaking Basics.

New Students
Had 28 new students in August and 22 new students in February. Of the 50 new students, 36 started the FT program. Enrollment for August was the same as last year and enrollment for February was down 8%. Retention is approximately 70-75%.

Their demographics include:

0% with bachelors
37% have HS/GED only (50% are <READ 99)
70% under 23 years old
89% single
37% receiving financial aid

Students heard about program from:
35% the catalog/ website
42% relatives
12% grad/dental office
5% counselor

Total students in program is 55, which is a 10% increase over last year and a 65% increase from 1.05 (33). We also have 4 males in the program!

Activities
Dental Health Screening for the Child Care Center held March 18th (because of the compressed calendar) was another big success. Drs. Bahn, Payne, Taraporewalla, Bowen, Okamoto, and Jeong, and Ms Demerjian screened almost 70 children (Thank you!). Citrus Clarion visited and took pictures. Children received a bag with a toothbrush, coloring book and education flyer for parents compliments of the RDA Club. This continues to be beneficial for the children and our students as well – they have the opportunity to do some volunteer work, work with children and local dentists. We look forward to continuing this annually.

The students also volunteered their time to help with the San Gabriel Valley Dental Society Children’s Screening.

We are continuing the potlucks to help new students integrate and feel supported through the program. Advanced students serve as tutors for the new students, helping them be successful.

The RDA Club made a donation of $50 to the CDC’s Annual Hop-a-Thon for muscular dystrophy. The students also adopted three families in the CDC for the Christmas Giving project.

Students continue to be active in Fundraisers. This includes sales of See’s Candy as well as taking a bus to a television studio for a taping of a show, for which they are paid. They raised about $850 this year.
Students in the RDA class again participated in the CDA’s Tablic Clinic competition. This is the fourth year for our students to participate. Last year we took 5 table clinics – and won Honorable Mention, 3rd Place and 2nd Place (out of 22 table clinics).

**Recruitment/Marketing**

This has been a quiet year for recruitment, because it’s been pretty busy with other things. We did participate in the school’s Open House last spring. We are lessening the number of Career Fairs we are attending. The High School Interface Program has been quiet, with the exception of Covina High (April 24). This involves working directly with High School Career Counselors and doing presentations about the program and Intro class to students who have been identified as being interested in a career in dentistry.

Intro enrollment remains at a minimum with recent classes being cancelled for low enrollment.

We are continuing the internal referral program to encourage current students to recruit, but have not done much advertising in school newspapers this year.

When local schools/teachers call, we generally try to accommodate their request. Faculty recently visited 2 first grade classes at Gladstone Elementary to talk about dentistry, assisting and how to take care of their teeth.

**Program Statistics**

Citrus RDA graduates continue to perform well on their State Board Exams. The average pass rate is 76%, with Citrus performing at 92.6% (up 4% from last year). That is 4th highest in the state - out of 72 Board-approved schools in California and only 2% behind the top school (our grads have been in the top 5 of the state for the last 15+ years).

We regularly send surveys to our graduates and students who drop the program. Dropped students rarely respond, however this last fall we received one back from a male, whose only reason for leaving the program was childcare issues. Our graduate surveys are still being returned, so there isn’t enough information yet.

The current status of the program continues to improve. 06-07 showed a gain of total enrollment of 43 (14% increase) and FTE’s for the year were 55.45 (up from 47.4 or 17%). The program reduced most lecture classes to 1 time per year in an effort to boost enrollment, which has worked. However, it is time to start looking at adding them back in. This year Dent 121 had 39 students and Dent 123 had 33, with more who wanted to take it.

**Changes/Updates**

We are now on compressed calendar with 16 week semesters starting in September and February. That means our classes are 8 weeks long. It’s too early to tell if this will work for our students or not. We currently have no class/es offered during wintersession, but are considering adding DPM next year.

One of the changes that was proposed to make to curriculum was to add a lab hour to Radiology (which would add ½ unit) and reduce Inservice Training hours from 324 to 300 (which would reduce by ½ unit). Consensus from the committee is that there is no problem to reduce the training hours from 324 to 300 (equates to 12 hours for each rotation). Discussion also held re the need to increase time spent on digital, since so many offices now have it. We would need more equipment to do that, as we currently have only one digital system.

Another curricular change proposed is to add a separate class for Advanced procedures, like sealants/coronal polishing. Faculty was waiting for implementation of SB 1546, but it continues to be postponed and the Dental Board is considering doing away with it altogether.

The application for Pit and Fissure Sealants was approved by COMDA last fall. It was suggested by Dr. Valdez that we consider using glass ionomer as a sealant material (Triage).

Faculty is seeing the need to increase the time spent on composite procedures to adequately prepare students for current practices.

**New Equipment**

We received 1 new dental chair through VTEA grant.

**Open Discussion**

Discussion re the current lab facilities and operatory equipment-definitely does not reflect current standards in practice. Marti noted that students are betters consumers and the need for current equipment is needed. It was noted by Dr Mulvehill that there are currently 24 lab stations, but our class sizes are 30. Ideas and discussion for expansion to address the problems of a growing program and limited space, including expansion to 6 chairs and move lab to lecture room. Consensus to explore expansion and to find ways to update current operatory and lab equipment.

Respectfully,

Claudia Pohl, C.D.A., R.D.A.