

Dean's Response to Respiratory Therapy Program 5-Year Review and Site Visit Report

Dean's response is in purple italics

I would like to extend my gratitude to the Review and Site Visit team listed below for their time and expert advice to improve our Respiratory Therapy program. I also would like to thank the advisory committee, the program faculty, administrative support staff and the University administration for their ongoing support.

Mr. Kraig Chugg, Weber State University, Health Sciences, chair of the Review Committee
Dr. Christy Kane, Bellarmine University, Respiratory Therapy
Dr. Gregg Marshall, Texas State University-San Marcos, Respiratory Therapy
Mr. Jason Francis, Weber State University, Library

I agree with the review and site visit team's findings and also with the Respiratory Therapy Program Director, Dr. Paul Eberle's response and action plans. Additional comments will be in purple italics.

RESPIRATORY THERAPY

Faculty Response to Program Review Site Visit

April 18-19th, 2014

1. COMMENDATIONS: A) Exceptional program support from the Dean's office.
B) Great support staff. C) Program pro-active with changes to the curriculum while responding to national standards and market potential. D) Engaged faculty with students and clinical affiliates. E) Consistent communication with its advisory committee. F) National and international professional leadership and innovative dedication to health promotion abroad.

Agree and commend the program for all their continued hard work and efforts at the local, national and international arenas.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS (from rubric)

Standard A: Mission Statement

STRENGTH: Outcomes need to be clearly defined and accomplishments periodically assessed.

Department Response: Agree, programmatic outcomes are accreditation driven reported in annual report of current status (RCS) by the Commission for Accreditation on Respiratory Care (CoARC). The WSU Respiratory Therapy program meets all stated thresholds and reports outcomes that exceed the national averages. Assessments are carried out that meet the program mission to prepare competent practitioners in terms of credentialing success in meeting criteria outlined by national curriculum standards. Entry-level credentialing (CRT) is 100% and WSU has earned commendations the last two years by CoARC for outstanding RRT credentialing success by achieving >90% pass rate on advanced credentialing exams. Just to put this into

context, this was awarded to only thirty schools out of more than 400 where the pass rate is 58% nationally.

Agree. In addition, continue to complete annual assessment and report. The accomplishments are noted and reported to the administration.

Standard B: Curriculum

STRENGTH/ADEQUATE: The program should be able to demonstrate that there is an appropriate allocation of resources for the curriculum delivery that is consistent with the mission of the program, number of graduates, and the number of major/minor and general education SCH's produced.

Department Response: Agree, although technology is moving so quickly, it is recommended that technologies in the workplace have a prominent presence in the curriculum. New mechanical ventilation machines cost over \$30,000 each and exposure can be assured in clinical practice. Preparation is very well managed and students are ready to be helpful in clinical rotations. Basic understandings are achieved in laboratory exercises and well outlined simulations so students can be immediately helpful in clinical rotations rather than learning curves taught at the bedside. The program recently acquired a 35,000 gift from RESMED, San Diego, CA for updated CPAP equipment and will seek out additional equipment funding resources to improve equipment utilization.

In addition to the ongoing departmental and college budgets, we have received funding from donors and community health partners to enhance our laboratory equipment and classroom technology. The fundraising efforts are in place for WSU 125 Capital Campaign to garner additional funding for the college and its departments.

Standard C Student Learning, Outcomes, and Assessment

STRENGTH: Learning outcomes must support the goals of the program and the constituency served.

Department Response: Agree, program outcomes are superior and our external advisory committee is satisfied programmatic changes are consistent with employment realities and graduate performance verified by employer surveys conducted annually.

Agree and continue with the input from the Advisory Board and all relevant surveys.

Standard D: Academic Advising

STRENGTH: Students receive appropriate assistance in planning their individual programs of study.

Departmental Response: Agree, students entering the program are assisted before, during and after graduation in making plans for employment of in continuing to graduate education.

Dumke College of Health Professions is fortunate to have their own Admissions and Advisement office to assist students. Additionally, WSU has a specific Career Counselor assigned to the

college to connect students to employment opportunities. The department faculty are well connected to the clinical sites and can assist communicate to their students any future placement and what the employers are requiring.

Standard E: Faculty

CONCERN: The program maintains a core of full-time faculty sufficient to provide stability and ongoing quality improvement for the degree programs offered.

Department Response: Agree, resources are thin but faculty are well prepared with 3 doctoral, 1 Master's prepared teacher and adjunct faculty to supplement instruction. All are engaged in tenure-track positions requiring scholarship and service activities. The addition of 1.5 FTE upon approval of a Master's curriculum by the WSU Board of Trustees and Regents will help spread responsibility across WSU-Davis and Provo satellites, help engage undergraduate research, and provide advanced education opportunities for students to succeed in a changing healthcare environment.

Agree. Faculty are dedicated, well-educated and prepared to educate their students. These faculty exemplify great professionalism and hard work ethics. It is our hope to be able to reward them with additional funds of faculty lines. Perhaps given the needs assessment outcomes, the department can offer the Master of Science in Respiratory Therapy (MSRT) and eventually increase the number of the faculty in the program.

Standard F: Program Support

CONCERN: The number and capabilities of the support staff are adequate to meet the mission and objectives of the program.

Department Response: Agree, our administrative support coordinates one on-campus (42 students) and two satellite co-horts (36 students) funded independently by E&G and CE money respectively. We anticipate performing a job audit in Fall semester 2014 requesting additional compensation and hiring additional work study in the interim as Master's admission and advising will facilitate an additional FTE administrative support to assist administration of the program.

Agree and will review outcomes.

3. PLANS BEYOND PROGRAM REVIEW

A Master's degree in Respiratory Therapy (MSRT) curriculum has been approved by Faculty Senate and is being re-drafted for the Board of Trustees and Regents during the next academic year (2014-15). Implementation will help alleviate faculty and program support concerns by making available new funding to facilitate hiring additional faculty and administrative personnel. Additionally, undergraduate mentoring in research can be facilitated with graduate students engaged in projects at the graduate level which has been recommended by this review. The curriculum can be improved with a research component that is not currently active in the curriculum without sufficient time to engage in such practices except to cover objectives necessary for credentialing successfully. A Master's component will engage students at the

higher level, meet job qualifications currently unmet in the work environment, and offer higher education pathways in the career of respiratory therapists in the state, region, and nation.

Agree. Support is in place to show the need and assist the process of approving the MSRT program.

I would like to thank the department chair Dr. Paul Eberle and the faculty for their dedication, future plans for improving the Respiratory Therapy program and their outcomes. I would like to congratulate them for the positive review and site visit report.

*Respectfully,
Yasmen Simonian
DCHP Dean*