

## **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.

## **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Chair, Respiratory Therapy