

Date: February 12, 2020

To: John Stalvey, Interim Provost

From: Denise Runge, Dean

Cc: Talis Colberg, Director, MatSu College

Re: AY20 Expedited Program Review Findings

Program/s in this review: Veterinary Assisting (OEC)

Specialized accrediting agency (if applicable): none

Campuses where the program is delivered: MatSu College

Members of the program review committee:

- Kathleen Nevis, Assistant Professor, MSC
- Connie Fuess, Assistant Professor, MSC
- Susan Whiton, Instructor (Adjunct) MSC
- Brooke Wilson, Instructor (Adjunct) MSC

Centrality of Program Mission and Supporting Role The Veterinary Assisting OEC aligns well with the mission of UAA, CTC, and of the MSC campus. The program prepares students for veterinary assistant positions. The state is home to 67 registered veterinary clinics, and industry representatives report the demand for trained assistants and technicians is strong. The program's courses can be used as elective credits within the Associate of Arts degree, providing a pathway to continued education. Financial support from industry further supports the need for the program.

Program Demand (including service to other programs), Efficiency, and Productivity

As faculty explained in their review, due to a prior suspension and later reinstatement, demand for the program had declined during the review period, but has recently rebounded. In 2019 there were 26 majors and seven graduates, demonstrating a return to the higher levels seen in 2014 and 2015. For 2019, the student credit hours per full time equivalent faculty member, or SCH/FTEF was 370.5. Its tuition revenue per credit hour is \$160.8 and its cost per credit hour is only \$73.1, for a ratio of 2.2, indicating the program is generating substantial positive revenue versus its instructional costs. Because all courses are currently taught by adjunct faculty, these costs are extremely low. Classes are currently capped at 24, so with an average class size in 2019 of 16 students, the program's costs would rise substantially if it proceeds with hiring a dedicated full time faculty member. Overall the program has a fairly small enrollment and very low costs, with potential capacity for additional growth.

Program Quality, Improvement and Student Success As the review explains, there is no external accrediting agency, but the program was designed with the standards of the American Veterinary Medical Association in mind. The program is designed to be very hands-on, and had substantial input from industry in its design. The program concludes with a practicum experience (one of several high impact practices) that is assessed both by program faculty and by the industry placement. The results of the program's design, delivery, and coordination with industry are that it appears that graduates are well-prepared for employment and are able to easily secure full time positions (60% receive offers from their practicum placement).

Program Duplication / Distinctiveness The MSC Veterinary Assisting program is the only program in the state. While a secondary program exists in the MatSu Borough School District, it does not duplicate the college-level program, but rather serves as a potential feeder.

Commendations and Recommendations Commendations: The program is commended for its ongoing efforts to ensure student success and placement, including its continuing, close association with industry. Recommendation: The program and the campus should work diligently, as the budget permits, to find a permanent faculty member. The program should continue to explore the option (now long delayed) of creating an AAS in Veterinary Technology.

Decision *Continuation.* Program is successfully serving its students and meeting its mission and goals. No immediate changes necessary, other than regular, ongoing program improvements.