

Administrative Response to Program Review

Emergency Medical Technician

Prepared by Scott Huff

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The Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Program Review was presented in the Winter of 2010. The program, which will soon be known as Emergency Medical Services (EMS), is part of a statewide degree consortium and, therefore, subject to the consortium's curriculum and outcomes requirements.

The report started with a brief history of the program's development and that history is appreciated as a backdrop to what and where the program is today and headed tomorrow, which includes pursuit of national accreditation. The presentation began with a video which informed those present of EMT's roll in educating and training EMT-Basics and EMT-Paramedics. The video made the point of the EMT program's close affiliation with the Emergency Telecommunicator (ETC) and Fire Protection Technology (FP) programs, along with a developing connection with the newer Emergency Management (EM) program. The integration of and cooperation between programs was very evident and is to be commended.

With respect to evidence that students are meeting course outcomes, the statistics provided with respect to state and national exams (NREMT) speak to the quality of the program since EMT-B and EMT-P student performance compares well with the performance of others. Noting, however, that EMT students have a higher percentage of A and B grades than other students in the college does not relate directly to measurement of student outcomes and caution is urged in tying grades to attainment of outcomes. The state and national measures used are a better gauge of performance.

You identified four factors - scheduling flexibility, accessibility, professionalism, and success - that draw students to PCC. You should be proud of the EMT program's

actions and records in all of these, just as our students are proud of participating in and graduating from the program.

In addressing areas in need of improvement, you discuss the hosting of practical exams and the burden that hosting places on the program. We have spoken in the past of the redundancy of these exams with the practice-oriented courses students must successfully complete in order to graduate and that perhaps the consortium should request that the Department of Human Services (DHS) eliminate these practical exams. A strategy might be to request that elimination and suggest that the money (and time) saved by DHS could be used elsewhere. Given the state's funding situation, now might be the time for such a request. Involving the Chief Academic Officers at each of the colleges represented in the consortium is recommended if the consortium wishes to pursue this move.

In response to your Recommendations requiring additional funding, we make the following *comments and observations*.

A full-time clinical/lab coordinator would greatly relieve current faculty and academic professionals of some of the more clerical and time-consuming tasks that now overburden their positions. This restructuring of job descriptions will have a very positive impact on performance and efficiency in the department. *This position is included in Cascade's portion of the College's "budget augmentation allocation" list released at the June 2010 meeting of the Budget and Planning Advisory Council. Pending positive action by the Board of Directors later this month, the position will be created and be available to be filled. (Please note that funding of positions on the list is subject to changes in the State's funding situation.)*

The addition of one full-time faculty position would also provide for better instructional continuity and scheduling reliability. Currently a number of adjunct faculty are willing to take on greater loads, and student demand exists, but contract obligations prohibit

workloads at or above .82 FTE (the equivalent of one accelerated EMT-Basic course per term). *Addition of a third full-time faculty position will be considered in the coming year for "new initiative" funding as we prepare the budget for the next biennium, which begins in July 2011. This position will vie with other requests within the Emergency Services Department as well as with other requests at Cascade and across the College. With regards to the 0.82 IFTE restriction, at a recent Contract Administration Meeting (CAM) the faculty federation and management agreed that the EMT program could have loads equal to 0.82 in a term, which should provide relief since some EMT courses now have workloads of 0.41 IFTE (due to revisions by the consortium) and two sections total 0.82 IFTE. Also, remember that the contract now allows a load of 1.03 IFTE one term per year. Between allowing workload to equal 0.82 in any term and to equal 1.03 in one term per year, scheduling of part-time faculty should be easier.*

Computer use in EMS training is now standard in the industry. All EMT textbooks are accompanied by CDs/DVDs for augmenting optimal learning opportunities. Written certification exams are now exclusively computer-based. All of this indicates that Increased and dedicated accessibility to the computer lab that is already in place in the PSEB building is vital. *While PSEB 107 will continue to be shared with other programs at Cascade, changes implemented for Fall 2010 and beyond will make this computer room more accessible for the EMT program, as well as others in the Emergency Services Department.*

Students pay significant program fees (e.g., \$75 - \$150 per course) specific to the EMT courses for which they register. The elimination of the Program's use of program fees collected has negatively affected the ability to provide and/or replace state of the art equipment. Return of these student-paid fees to the program they are attending makes sense and would appropriately relieve current budgetary constraints. *Later this month, the Deans of Instruction will begin discussions with Financial Services representatives about "program fees", i.e., fees over and above standard "lab fees". That discussion will*

*include the setting, collecting, and distributing "program fees" in all programs at the College. We will keep you apprised of the discussion and decisions made.*