Oklahoma Academy of Physician Assistants
March Board Meeting Minutes
Garden Exhibition Center – Meeting Room 1
3400 NW 36th St., OKC
March 2, 2020
6:30 – 8:30 pm

Board Members Present: Gavin Christie, Crystal Fredrickson, Tara Watson, Erin O'Donnell, Paula Montgomery, Sara Parr, Alex Garcia, Jeanine Smith, Jeff Burke, John Click, Keith Plummer, Devonna A'Belle, Allyson Niblett

Board Members Absent: Christy Niehues, Natasha Simonson

Others Present: Susan Thomas, Audrey Poole, Bridget Keast, Nallely Beesley, Allison Garrison, Phil Burke, Jalyssa Valencia, Saura Douglas, Melody Yozzo, Troy Bender

I. Call to Order 6:35 pm

II. Approval of Agenda

- **Motion to approve Agenda made by Crystal Fredrickson; Alex Garcia seconds. Motion passes without opposition.**

III. Consent Agenda

1. January Board Meeting Minutes

2. Student Reports

- **Motion to approve Consent Agenda made by Tara Watson; Crystal Fredrickson seconds. Motion passes without opposition.**

IV. Reports

1. Legislative and Governmental – Jan Loftis, Allison Garrison

- The OAPA used one of its shell bills for legislation this year due to the continued issue of the Medical Board wanting to create ratios.
- SB 516 will be the shell bill to make clear there are NO ratios. It will be heard sometime next week in the Senate. It is currently without a title.
- Emergency Covid rules will go away at the end of the session in May or August at the latest.
- Bill 388 on home health is doing well. It already passed federally due to the Cares Act. This bill will allow Oklahoma health care providers (including PAs) to write for home health and bill for home health.

- The OAPA sent a letter to the AG asking for an opinion regarding the ratio issue and if the Medical Board can set PA/Physician ratios.
- The OAPA has asked for an opinion from the Governor regarding the Medical Board's authority to enforce the PA/Physician ratios.
- Our lobbyists met today with the new Secretary of Health and Human Services. They discussed the lack of help from the Medical Board.

2. Governance Committee – Gavin Christie

- We met with the non-profit attorney about updating the bylaws and governance policies.
- We discussed that an officer position should have a one-year requirement as a board member or committee member.
- We discussed having a voting seat for the PA Program Affairs Committee.

3. CME Committee – Saura Douglas, Susan Thomas

- The committee met a few weeks to discuss topics and having a hybrid conference that would be live and virtual. If we do a hybrid conference, we will probably stick with V-Cube.
- V-Cube quoted $6,000 for recording the lectures and the on-demand library and $8,000 for live stream and an on-demand library.
- Dual tracks for the conference were discussed due to space limitations and the general session being recorded.
- The board discussed and decided on a live/virtual live conference with the on-demand library.
- It was decided not to have dual tracks due to space limitations and additional costs that could be saved to help cover the virtual component of the conference.
- The board was made aware that additional moderators for each lecture would be needed due to the virtual component.
- The 2022 Embassy Suites conference venue contract was reviewed. The board recommended cutting back the sleeping rooms & banquet minimums due to the continued presence of Covid.
- The board discussed and approved having a lecture at the conference in memory of Dr. Dick Hyde, who passed away this year. Dr. Hyde was very involved with the PA Program from the beginning and taught immunology for many years for the PA Program. It was also discussed that this could be the start of having a Memorial lecture at the conference for future years.

4. Executive Director's Report – Susan Thomas

- The term for Tony Sharp's seat on the PA Advisory Committee has ended. The OAPA will need to recommend three PAs for this seat to the Oklahoma Medical Board. Tony Sharp has indicated that he would like to continue to serve.
- There was a discussion on getting some new faces on the committee.
- **Motion made by Alex Garcia to recommend Sara Parr, Tara Watson, and Keith Plummer for the PA Advisory Committee; Crystal Fredrickson seconds.**
    - Discussion: The board discussed additional interested board members.
- **Gavin Christie amends the motion to add Devonna A'Belle and Jeff Burke to the list; Erin O'Donnell seconds.**
- **Motion passes with Sara Parr and Tara Watson abstaining.**

5. Research Committee – Alex Garcia

- Reviewed the questions that will be on the PA Title Change Survey.
- **Motion made from the research committee to approve the three-question survey. Motion passes without opposition.**

6. Finance Committee – Paula Montgomery

- The budget was reviewed.
- There was concern for the budget coming into 2021; however, we are doing well. We have not had to dip into our savings, and we are still $152,000 above our budget.

V. Unfinished Business

- Tara Watson asked if we had filled the open PAPAC seat.
  - Susan Thomas stated that we have not and still need a treasurer.
  - Crystal Fredrickson volunteered to serve as the treasurer.

VI. New Business

- Phil Burke made a request to have the OAPA pay his registration to attend LAS.
- **Motion made by Tara Watson for the OAPA to pay for LAS for Phil Burke; Paula Montgomery seconds. Motion passes without opposition.**

Motion to adjourn by Erin O'Donnel.

Adjourn 8:15pm