

PSU Recreation Advisory Board Meeting  
Thursday, April 29, 2021  
2:00 p.m.  
Via ZOOM

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Laura Covert-Miller who introduced Dr. James Truelove, Dean, College of Education. Members present included: Sara Vacca, Michelle Alexander, Emily Gronau, Matt Neal, Jayna Guerra, Brad Stroud, Amber Davish, Devin Gorman, Laura Covert-Miller, Janice Jewett, Sarah Ball, Rick Hardy, John Oppliger, Jim Truelove.

Unable to attend: Sunni Stipp, Kim Vogel, Vince Daino, Craig Hull, Steven Lilly, Damian Smithhisler, Lucas Arnold, Mallory Woods, Regi Casner.

Guests: Davida Fontelroy

Welcome -Dr. Jim Truelove, Dean, COE welcomed all and thanked the board for their input and advice to use in our programs.

Dr. John Oppliger, HHPR Department Chair, welcomed everyone and noted that PSU is the only accredited recreation program, as well as only accredited Therapeutic Program in the state of Kansas. He stated the Recreation program has a healthy number of students. He mentioned the recent COAprT Accreditation, commending board members for their involvement.

Dr. Covert asked everyone to introduce themselves and tell what their favorite recreational activity is. She then shared her screen to reveal the agenda items:

RSSHM Program Updates -  
**COAPRT**

Dr. Covert-Miller spoke about the COAPRT Accreditation and thanked board members for participating in the interviews during the process. HHPR renews annually and every 5-6 years a self-study occurs. Documents were started last year, submitted in August 2020, and virtual visit occurred in March 2021. The team was pleased with the program and outlined areas for improvement which have already taken place. Full accreditation will take place in September at NRPA national meeting.

***Program Numbers/ COVID Changes***

Dr. Covert-Miller reported the department has 118 student majors in Recreation, which is the highest total in years. She attributed the increase to the addition of the Sports Management & Hospitality Management Emphases areas. She also spoke to members about the challenges of teaching during the pandemic. Faculty have restructured classes to hybrid, hyflex, or online.

***Student Experiences During COVID***

Dr. Covert-Miller was pleased that during the pandemic the Rec Interns were able to complete their Internships virtually or by other means. With limited community visits, the students were able to reach out virtually with elementary schools, and other facilities to provide recreational activities.

Davida Fontelroy, Rec Intern, reported about her internship in Arizona. Being virtual, she experienced technical difficulties and time change difference; but was excited about the weekly fitness classes and senior day services provided.

Breakout Groups

Faculty members met with professional representatives associated with the four emphasis areas: Rec & Sport Management, Therapeutic Recreation, Community & Worksite Wellness, and Hospitality Management. During the breakout session, groups discussed topics that included impacts of COVID, changing trends, new or additional skills students need to have, other recommendations. See below for

discussion points from each emphasis area. Rec & Sport Management and Hospitality Management were combined.

### ***Rec & Sport Management and Hospitality Management***

Current Impacts and Trends: Sara – OK kids day – getting ready to open – tournaments are going now and getting ready. Matt – COVID has changed throughout the 13 months, now since Feb 2021 still Covid protocols – travel is coming back “revenge travel” seeing a lot more will to pay higher rates. Events sport, graduation. Still not staffing wise back to normal. Devin –revenue down 31%, March numbers have gone up, rebounding, events picking up, people want things to do. Had to changes advertising, Track & Field event first last month – lots of paperwork for COVID. Not as many protocols for outdoor events. Rick reading trends of gas shortage – down 25% of drivers.

New Skills and Additions for students: Sara – skills conflict resolution (masks issues), marketing (no marketing department need to do on own), learning software (PPRD uses Rec track – hoping for civic rec), being able to alter plans for covid. Rick – Excel assignments for students. Matt – Conflict resolution (covid or not), marketing ecommerce style (ecommerce administrator – social media), focus not sales but revenue generation, personal protection of the job environment (OSHA guidelines and provide safety). Devin – echo to both, collaboration (and having to find safety protocols). Problem solving (events need to be able to figure it out). Rick – in classroom not seeing problem solving.

Recommendations: Devin – corporate relations (find someone to use software). Sara – grant writing and documentation and verbiage for grant – record keeping.

### ***Therapeutic Recreation***

COVID: created means of using telehealth, being more creative in services, and the need to reach out to community for services to bring to patients when can't go out of facility

Seeing a need to change how provide TR to homeless population

The skills students need include understanding how to make connections in the community, improving skills to keep patients engaged when virtual, always being flexible and able to adapt

### ***Community & Worksite Wellness***

Covid has enhanced creativity, collaborative efforts and reaching people that are homebound.

As a result we see the need for some virtual activities to continue as well as face-to-face offerings. Also the need for marketing these various delivery methods is important.

The skills that students need include: Scenarios that help them make quick decisions; Skills to host an on-line meeting; Taking initiative and showing professionalism to build relationships that help you with future collaborations

Class(es) and/or Curriculum additions recommended include a focus on: Grant writing, Marketing, E-sports

### **Overall Group Discussion**

Large group discussion included summarization of small group topics. Found there were similarities in some areas of discussion.

Last, Dr. Covert Miller then announced Dr. Sarah Ball will be leaving the department at the end of the semester for another opportunity. The RRSHM program is able to hire in her position. The position is posted on the Pitt State website and will be emailed with the meeting minutes for all to share. Dr. Ball thanked everyone and stated she enjoyed working with all on the advisory board.

**Adjournment**

Dr. Covert thanked all for coming and asked anyone to contact her if they had any questions or suggestions.  
The meeting adjourned at 3:10 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan Downing