

Program Meeting Minutes

Date: June 28, 2013

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Carol Bradley, Natalie Hensarling, Darla O'Dwyer

Business Conducted through email

Strategic Goals, in particular Non-RD tract

Dr. Martin and I met with Kathy Springfield the other day and she told us that Health Science is exploding and they don't have enough teachers or classrooms to accommodate the students. We asked her why there was such an increase, and she told us that nursing has decreased the number of students that they can admit. All of the nursing students are going to health science. Any student who gets a food and nutrition degree has the same job opportunities as a student who has a health science degree. Our non-RD tract students all get jobs as well, so it is not unethical to offer them another pathway besides health science. Here are some of the positions our non-RD students have gotten:

DaVita Dialysis
Home Health
Journalism
LifeCare Hospice
Restaurant Manager
WIC, WIC and more WIC
Houston Independent School District

Many of the health science students are getting minors in nutrition-why not allow them to have it as a major, so they can have a more solid background? If they want to eventually get their RD, they will only have 1 year of undergraduate leveling courses to take in order to receive a verification statement.

The main disadvantage is many students will take the easier route, and we will have trouble making our senior level RD courses. However, last year, 50% of the students in MNT I failed and did not progress to MNT II. So I guess forcing them to go the RD route will allow us to make MNT I, but not MNT II and advanced nutrition. That doesn't seem ethical either.

I put it in the long term goals because we will have to do some research. We will need to look at other universities who offer non-RD tract plans and decide how we want to proceed.

We will still have to increase our recruiting efforts for the RD students, whether we have the non-RD tract or not. At least having the non-RD tract will increase our numbers and give health science some relief (although they may not see it that way!).