

Fanshawe College

FIRST: Fanshawe Innovation, Research, Scholarship, Teaching

PAC Minutes

Occupational Therapist Assistant and
Physiotherapist Assistant

2022

OPA1 - PAC Minutes October 28, 2022

Ryan McLellan

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MINUTES OF PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Program Name and Code: Occupational Therapist Assistant and Physiotherapist Assistant (OPA1)

Current Meeting Date: October 28, 2022 – 12 p.m. – 1 p.m.

Meeting Place: Zoom Meeting

Previous Meeting Date: June 13, 2022

Next Meeting Date: To Be Determined

Chair of PAC: Folarin Babatunde

Recording Secretary: Ryan McLellan

PAC Member	Organization	Attendance
Folarin Babatunde, PT (PAC Chair)	School of Physical Therapy, Western University	Present
T.K. Dwarkanath, PT	Lifemark	Present
Judy Gallo, OT Reg.	London Health Sciences Centre	Present
Eden Jamieson, OTA/PTA	London Health Sciences Centre	Regrets
Kristen Johnson, OT Reg.	St Joseph's Health Care London, Parkwood institute – Stroke Services	Present
Josh Lee, PT	London District - Ontario Physiotherapy Association	Regrets
Manny Paiva, OT Reg.	St. Joseph's Health Care London, Parkwood Institute – Rehabilitation Program	Regrets
Diane Spargo, PT	Optimal Physiotherapy	Present
College Resource Persons	Position	Attendance
Doug Bickford	Program Coordinator & Faculty Member, Occupational Therapist Assistant and Physiotherapist Assistant	Present
Tony Mallette	Associate Dean, School of Health Sciences	Regrets
Ryan McLellan	Assistant to the Associate Dean, School of Health Science	Present

1) Welcome and Introductions

- Megan Howe has joined the committee as a non-voting student member
- Brief overview of the PAC role from Doug (advisory committee comprised of community partners and stakeholders)

2) Approvals of Agenda

- a) Agenda – October 28, 2022
 - Approved by consensus
- b) Previous Minutes & Review of Action Items – June 13, 2022

- Approved by consensus
- Previous Actions items:
 - Action 1: Doug will connect with TK ref guest lecture
 - Feedback from students was they wanted to hear more about their future career; more guest speakers incorporated into courses as a result including: long-term care, acute hospital, private practice, Practice Advisor, College of Physical Therapists of Ontario
 - Action 2: Doug to connect with Josh regarding curriculum
 - Doug and Josh discussed including material/discussions on chronic pain in the curriculum; two guest speakers will be presenting to students on chronic pain; pain researcher from Western University; PTA from London Intercommunity Health Centre
 - **28 Oct 2022 Mtg - Action 1: Doug and Folarin to discuss neuro component of chronic pain and how it can be introduced/presented in curriculum**
 - Action 3: Doug to connect with TK about Rural Recruitment ideas
 - Doug and T.K. will continue this conversation as they met and discussed other items related to the program and curriculum when they met over the summer
 - **28 Oct 2022 Mtg - Action 2: Doug and T.K. to discuss rural recruitment**

3) Review of Fall 2022 Term

- Max class size is 60; started with 51, currently at 48; Doug expects to be down to 40 by end of term; attrition consistent with previous years and not out of line with other programs
 - T.K. asked about data on attrition (why?); anecdotally, Doug has found it's academic related; will have more data after the first program review (after first five years of new program launch, then every three years)
- Year 1 – 70 per cent face-to-face; Year 2 – 85 per cent face-to-face
 - Fanshawe is 65 per cent face-to-face
 - Megan found virtual learning beneficial in terms of students having to opportunity to watch, and re-watch, recordings of lectures (benefit of pausing or going back to certain sections for review); student opinions on virtual delivery are generally split and it depends on the student and their learning preferences
 - Doug considering recording audio of lectures and posting on FOL
- The Program continues to examine formal academic pathways with Pre-Health Sciences and Fitness and Health Promotion that includes credit transfers between programs

4) Review of Recommended Curriculum Modification

- Five semesters; three clinical placements; 19 OPA course, four electives
- Goal: increased focus on movement science, exercise, exercise physiology
 - Proposed Solution: Doug and faculty team propose removing *OT & PT* course in first semester of Year 1 (much of material covered in same semester in the *Rehabilitation and the Healthcare System* course and the *Professional Practice* course) and in its place develop an *Intro to Exercise and Exercise Physiology*
 - members supportive of change; Folarin suggested for the course to not just focus on exercise, but on general physical activity (for example, walking) and movement and the benefits of non-sedentary lifestyle, as well as rest and recovery; T.K also suggested material on transfers and transferring; overall, for the course to focus on, and have a balance between, exercise and movement science;
 - T.K.: Could *Healthcare Systems* and *professional practice* be moved into one course?: Doug and faculty feel that both courses already cover a lot of material in a 14 week semester and that combining the material into one course would be challenging; also, the *professional practice* course addresses areas such self-awareness, conflict management, cultural diversity, and professional boundaries (these are also reinforced in other courses) and is distinct from the *Healthcare Systems* course
- Goal: to increase skills knowledge in Mental Health
 - Proposed solution: Doug and faculty team propose removing *Essentials in Human Nutrition* course in second semester of Year 2 and requiring a Mandatory GenEd course in Year 1, Term 1 and Term 2 with a Mental Health focus to provide a foundation, that will then be further developed in Year 2, Term 1 in which students take an OPA course: *Concepts in Mental Health*
 - Megan mentioned the heavy workload in first semester of Year 2 (nine weeks and then six-week placements) and moving mental health course to second semester of Year 2. Doug: faculty is aware of the heavy workload in Y1, T2 and will continue to investigate opportunities to reduce workload.
- Members supportive of proposed curriculum changes
- Next steps: Doug will need to receive approval from Tony and academic leadership

5) Review of Accreditation Options

- Intent is to pursue program accreditation; very few external partners and organizations require hires to be graduates from accredited programs; regardless, Fanshawe intends to pursue accreditation

- Two options; OTA & PTA Education Accreditation Program (accredit only OTA/PTA programs) and Accreditation Canada; most schools choose first option; Doug recommends Accreditation Canada as they accredit many health programs (for example, respiratory therapy and MRT) and because of this, may see that something in the curriculum is missing or needs more focus from an overall health education perspective and an OTA/PTA only accreditor may not provide this type of feedback or comparative
 - Tony and Doug have been discussing the options and will begin the accreditation process in September 2023

6) Placement Challenges & Opportunities

- Challenges
 - COVID continues to impact clinical partners in a variety of ways
 - Fall 2022 clinical rotation; 21 students for clinical placement, 3 placements still required
 - Parkwood and University Hospital only taking two students each (would usually take four to six); system is taxed
 - January 2023, 40 Yr1, T2 placements spots will be needed
 - **Action 3: T.K. to contact Sandy Steinwender (clinical placement faculty) about a placement opportunity**
 - Students continue to struggle with:
 - Mandatory pre-placement requirements (immunizations, police vulnerable sector check, CPR/First Aid; some students wait too long and don't realize how time intensive the process can be (despite the reminders of faculty team)
 - Students are not sent to a placement if they do not meet the pre-placement requirements
 - Travel: placements can be arranged anywhere within a 1-hr radius of Fanshawe Campus and students are 100% responsible for all costs (ie meals, parking, etc)/transportation requirements. Although this is clearly communicated in a variety of mediums, students continue to state they have no ability to get to placement. In these situations the Placement Faculty (Sandy Steinwender) will do her very best to accommodate, but ultimately the schools only responsibility is to find the placement location. If a more suitable location cannot be found, it is ultimately the students responsibility and choice to attend placement. If they don't attend, they fail the course.
- Opportunities
 - Fanshawe has approved the temporary reduction in Fall admissions to reduce the pressure on clinical placements (max admissions numbers from 60 to 45)
 - Currently exploring implementation of web-based attendance and competency tracking system which will reduce the

administration/paperwork for the Placement Faculty, and then allow her to focus on building community partnerships.

- Fanshawe OTA/PTA outpatient clinic. The Fanshawe; massage program and dental programs have onsite outpatient clinics and our hopes that in the medium/long-term that creating a similar clinic model would create learning opportunities (ie placements) for Fanshawe OPA, Western PT/OT programs, and provide a needed service to the community

7) Roundtable

- Membership: suggestion to invite someone with a mental health background/training to sit on the committee; possibly members to represent the community; what about public health?
- T.K. asked if Fanshawe hosts career fairs or employer recruitment events
 - **Action 4: Ryan to send T.K. contact information for Fanshawe career and job events**
 - Contact is Brigitte MacKinnon in Employment & Student Entrepreneurial Services - bmackinnon@fanshawec.ca

8) Review of Actions Items & Adjournment

- **Action 1:** Doug and Folarin to discuss neuro component of chronic pain be introduced/presented in program curriculum
- **Action 2:** Doug and T.K. to discuss rural recruitment
- **Action 3:** T.K. to contact Sandy Steinwender (clinical placement faculty) about a placement opportunity this fall
- **Action 4:** Ryan to send T.K. contact information for Fanshawe career and job events
- Meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.