MINUTES
Ventura College Veterinary Technology Program Advisory Committee Meeting
October 13, 2026

In Attendance
Mckenzie Rasmussen-Hagerty, DVM
Ann Welton, DVM
Felicia Duenas, Program Dean
Tamera Kilbourn, RVT
Sharon Schieltz, RVT
Tracy Darling, RVT
Deena Case, PhD
Christina Sisk, DVM
Patrick Connolly, DVM
Heather Hartman, RVT (graduate cohort #5)

Absent
Janis Shinkawa, DVM
Dorothy Farias, Ed. D.
Jill Muraoka Lim, DVM
Michelle Anderson, RVT
Ian Holsworth, BVSc, DACVS, Diplomate ACVS
Heather Hartman, Current Student
Stephanie Hernandez, RVT (graduate cohort #1)

The meeting agenda was distributed via email on 10/7/2026.

Welcome, Introductions
Dr. Rasmussen-Hagerty began the meeting at 5:13pm.
She then welcomed everyone to the Ventura College Veterinary Technology Advisory Committee meeting. Members and guests introduced themselves and gave their credentials. Tamera Kilbourn and Michelle Anderson are moving out of state and will no longer be on the Advisory Committee.

Advisory Committee
The purpose, role and duties of the advisory committee members were explained and discussed.

Program Announcements and Updates

- The Advisory committee is looking for new advisory members. They can be DVMs or RVTs, educators or community members interested in the program. If you have recommendations, please contact any program staff or faculty.
- The program is still actively looking for part and full-time faculty, but it has been difficult to fill the positions. It was explained that the program needs a full-time director because at this time two part-time instructors (Dr. Rasmussen & Dr. Welton) fill the director position. Faculty and director positions can be filled by a DVM or RVT.
- Dr. Welton discussed the events of the Association of Veterinary Technician Educators (AVTE) conference held in August 2026. She and Dr. Jonokuchi attended the conference and learned about a "New Teachers" course. Both are now enrolled in the eight-week course, which meets weekly and focuses on course development and classroom development
- Student enrollment data: Cohort 5 graduated in May 2026 with 17 students. Cohort 6 currently has 18 students enrolled and is expected to graduate in May 2027. Cohort 7 began in August 2026 with 24 students and is expected to graduate in May 2028. A few of the reasons for loosing student from any cohort are failing a class, personal reasons, work and family schedules.
- VTNE updates: There are no current 2026 VTNE scores because the data is released once per year. A discussion about the difficulty with instruction between teaching them the required skills and getting them to pass the VTNE. The VTNE prep course which is for all graduates will be transitioning to an actual course where previous graduates and community members will be able to attend.
- Admissions Criteria update- multi-criteria will start with Fall 2027 cohort and the new application will be completely on-line. There will no longer be a lottery but a point system with a rubric that will be used to admit students to the program. All prerequisites must be completed prior to the Spring semester.
- Internship updates: The program has established certain essential skills as mandatory requirements for the internship to ensure that students develop the competencies necessary for their professional practice, rather than allowing them to select only the skills they find easiest to perform. We are also exploring the possibility of selecting appropriate

clinical sites and establishing more specific internship requirements based on the program's established skills evaluation criteria.

- Upcoming community outreach and marketing activities include the Veterinary Technology (Vet Tech) Open House, featuring a panel discussion on various career paths in the field, and an information session for prospective applicants covering the new application process and requirements.
- New degree opportunities were explained-Animal Science degree for transfer and a transfer option to Cal State Pomona to complete a 4-year degree started spring 2027.
- Program challenges and needs were discussed for the upcoming year. The most pressing need is hiring faculty and a full-time director.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15pm by Dr. Rasmussen-Hagerty and she thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and being a part of the Veterinary Technology Program Advisory Committee. Next scheduled meeting will be April 2027.