Instructional Faculty Consortium Committee Meeting (IFCC)

MINUTES   4-28-2023   9:15 a.m.   Virtual and In-Person

PROGRAM	Health Information Management Technology
FACILITATOR	Annette Baker, Lanier Technical College
CO-FACILITATOR	Susan Bowman, Georgia Northwestern Technical College
ATTENDEES – In Person	Annette Baker, Lanier Technical Susan Bowman, Georgia Northwestern Daphney Bryant, West Georgia Technical Sonya Burns, Augusta Technical Dr. Barbara West, TCSG
ATTENDEES – Virtual	Crysta Andrews, Southern Regional Clark, Adrianne, Atlanta Denese Davis, Wiregrass Donna Estes, Georgia Northwestern Gerry Lynn Franks, Athens Lois Hunter, Atlanta Lisa Kagay, Ogeechee Jennifer Minish, Athens Deborah Nieves, Albany Jeanese Riley, Savannah Andrea Speregen, Athens Quinesha Thomas-Rice, Georgia Piedmont Priscilla Waters, Ogeechee
ABSENT:	Aletta Spence, Atlanta Erica Wilson, Southern Regional Keechia Boyd, Georgia Piedmont Debra Geiger, Savanna Erica Wilson, Southern Regional

Agenda Topics

WELCOME AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES		Dr. Barbara West and Annette Baker
DISCUSSION	Everyone was welcomed. There was no discussion. Sonya Burns of August Technical College made the motion to approve the minutes, and Daphney Bryant made a second. Minutes were unanimously approved.	
CONCLUSIONS		

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

TCSG UPDATES		Dr. West

DISCUSSION	**Micro-Credentialing and Badges** Dr. West revealed the micro-credentials would include at least two courses and would be between 1 and 5 credit hours. We are free to develop new courses. TCSG took it back to the table and it was discussed by the Presidents' Council and also discussed Badges. A micro-credential can be converted to a badge. Dr. West instructed us to wait until we hear our VPAA of our college on how to move forward with a micro-credential and badge. Central Georgia and Columbus Tech are piloting the BADGR program, and their goal is to develop a badge and/or micro-credential that does not compete with Continuing Education. Please contact your Dean if you want to proceed soon with this program. **Generative AI** Dr. West clarified that the AI is that students can go to ChatGPT and other AI sites and they can request that platform to write a paper or complete an assignment on any topic and AI will complete the assignment. Our goal is to decide how to use AI to help the students perform better in the classroom. We must include critical thinking development in the assignments. Some examples of assignments that AI can generate include text, PowerPoints, images, and audio. It is not considered plagiarism. It is being used in medicine to generate a health record in a physician practice. Dr. West provided two links to review: https://chat.openai.com/auth/login and https://www.the-good-ai.com/ ChatGPT for teachers: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dvcORCajeeo Practical Deep Learning for Coders: https://course.fast.ai/ ChatGPT and Education Playlist: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hFblu_BbxO4&list=PLDT0E1aDmrXvxINI7jjNSMGnQeMgOC Another example is to have the students create an assignment and then ask AI to create the same assignment. Then the students would be asked to compare and contrast the two submissions. Priscilla Waters stated that her daughters use AI in their college courses. Their instructors ask the students to reference the AI used in the assignment. Dr. West approved addressing the issue of AI used in the classroom, but her biggest concern is addressing critical thinking. Denese Davis said that the English Department at Wiregrass Technical College is working on an Workgroup. Some uses have been with resumes and mock interviews. ChatGPT creates the questions for the interview, but then the student answers the questions in an interview. Dr. West confirmed that there is a TCSG Taskforce created for AI policies. Dr. West said they are also working on a solution to detect plagiarism when using AI.

CONCLUSIONS	

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
	Dr West	

Program Updates		Annette Baker

DISCUSSION	**Albany Technical College**: Deborah Nieves is new to our group and has been in the position for one month. They are completing their accreditation and currently reviewing all courses for competency compliance. All attendees offered assistance. **Athens Technical College:** Andrea Speregen is the new Program Chair, taking over for Joyce Waters. The program completed their accreditation site survey in March, and the program passed the survey and the process went very well. Gerry Lynn Franks reported the site survey went very well, and she was excited to participate. She reported this was the first time all three faculty members had participated in this process. Gerry Lynn felt the process was less stressful because it was virtual. **Atlanta Technical College:** Adrianne Clark reported that the program has recently completed the reaccreditation process and they passed. Adrianne credited Mrs. Spence's hard work for their successful achievement. **Augusta Technical College:** Sonya Burns stated that Latina Jackson was recently named the Program Director for Medical Coding. Ms. Jackson recently achieved her CPC. Medical Coding has been moved from Medical Assisting fto the HIMT Program.

Georgia Northwestern: Susan Bowman reported their program passed their reaccreditation process at 100% pass rate. Six out of seven coding students passed the CCA examination. Donna Estes, Program Director, joined the meeting later.

Georgia Piedmont: Quinisha Thomas-Rice is the new Program Director who is taking over for Susan Heyde at the end of last year. They are currently working on the APAR report and are looking for a full-time faculty member.

Lanier Technical: Annette Baker has been helping CAHIIM with site reviews and shared CAHIIM's recognition of our TCSG's benchmark and southern hospitality.

Ogeechee Technical: Priscilla Waters will be leaving May 11, and Lisa Kagay, will take over as Program Director. Priscilla will continue as an adjunct instructor. The program will post the opening for a full-time faculty instructor. The curriculum has been restructured. Pass rates declined due to the 2018 curricular competency changes. They are analyzing the prerequisites to ensure improved pass rates. Priscilla offered to remain as a resource for all instructors, and she shared that she is starting her own coding company.

Savannah Technical: No one was present.

Southern Crescent: No one was present.

Southern Regional: Crysta Andrews is the Full-Time Faculty and works with the Program Director, Erica Wilson. They are currently working on the curriculum so they can apply for accreditation.

West Georgia: Daphney Bryant, Program Director, reports their program has 7 graduates this Spring from the HIMT degree program. They are in the midst of the self-study, and both Daphney and Dana Stirman have prepared, and their site visit will take place in March, 2024. They are in the process of transitioning to a fully online program, and they are awaiting Leadership's approval in July, 2024. Daphney will be retiring on June 1, 2023, and she will remain active in NGHIMA and GHIMA. Daphney has recommended that Dana Stirman take over the reign.

Wiregrass Technical: Denese Davis reported their program has completed reaccreditation in March, 2023, and she was relieved at the completion of an excellent outcome. Denese will decide on October 1 whether to retire or not, and if so, the position of the program director will be posted. Denese has completed 30 years at Wiregrass Technical College.

CONCLUSIONS	

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

NEW BUSINESS		Annette Baker

DISCUSSION	**ICD-11 Conversion**

ICD-11 Conversion
Annette Baker has nothing new to add from WHO or AHIMA since our last meeting. Susan Bowman has nothing to add. Priscilla Waters reported there are webinars that offer introductions to ICD-11, which is an expansion of ICD-10. The number of codes will increase greatly with stems and roots. Annette challenged all instructors to consider how a coding certification examination will be achieved fully digital without paper code books.

Master Textbook List
Denese Davis sent the final list to all instructors on the listserv. She volunteered to resend the list since we have so many new members.

Institutionalized-developed HIMT Courses
Lanier Tech had the first graduation class for Data Analytics and all students have been hired. Annette Baker recommended that other programs incorporate all three coding courses for the Data Analytics track so the students are better prepared for the RHIT certification examination. It was also discovered that Pell Grant will pay for both tracks as long as the student does not apply for graduation until they are near the completion of the second track. Denese Davis reiterated that not all students have Pell Grant. Georgia Piedmont is working towards full implementation of both tracks.

VLab and EncoderPro Updates

Denese Davis said that the cheaper version, Medical Coding VLab, and said that it works better. Susan Bowman said they are using the same version. Annette Baker said the students were having trouble with access, but Susan stated that you need to make several attempts to log in. Denese said that since transitioning to the Medical Coding version, they have had less issues.

Ogeechee using Encoder Pro software instead of VLab, it is relatively cheap, and complements the MindTap course. Denese Davis shared that some MindTap activities are being retired. Priscilla Waters reported that MindTap will be offered for coding and revenue cycle courses.

Priscilla Waters reported that Encoder Pro is sold through the bookstore and costs approximately $75 for a one-year subscription and they use it at the end of HIMT 1400 and then in the other coding courses. The instructor version is $25. It closely the resembles the coding manual.

Deborah Nieves reports EHR Go is a great resource for hands-on application activities. She also reports that the activities can be modified for customization. They pair it with the 3M Encoder for coding activities. Deborah will use these applications in the Fall. She will use EHR Go for HIMT 1100. Priscilla echoed they use EHR Go in HIMT 1100, 1151, 1410, 2400 and 2460, and she said it marries well with Encoder Pro and helps with performance improvement activities. Lisa Kagay said that she has used it for five years and she receives good feedback from the students for real-world applications. Dana Stirman absolutely loves EHR Go! Dana created a document for tracking its use.

AHIMA Coding Accreditation
Has anyone gone through the process of PCAP to become an accredited coding program? Susan Bowman was interested to see the cost and the benefits. PCAP accreditation could offer double marketing opportunities through two different accreditation sites. CAHIIM also certifies other certificates but nothing for medical coding. Denese Davis is interested in this accreditation, and her program has received many industry calls regarding AAPC certification. The number of degree students seeking RHIT at Wiregrass have decreased so they are re-evaluating RHIT accreditation versus AAPC accreditation. Susan Bowman reiterated that all medical coding students can sit for the CCA and CPC certification examinations. Susan also recommended that if both students join both AAPC and AHIMA with lower cost subscriptions offered to students. Denese reported there is no local active AAPC chapter. Lisa Kagay reported they had a student take the RHIT examination in her last semester, so they waived the final examination in HIMT 2460. The student passed the examination and was hired. Several students were more interested in completing the RHIT examination. Priscilla reported their employers actively seek the RHIT credential and recognize a well-rounded preparation for an HIM career. Statesboro has a local AAPC chapter and reached out to Ogeechee's HIMT program. Each program will likely need to market to their regional employers. Priscilla offer the students to purchase just the RHIT preparation textbook or the bundle that includes the price of the RHIT certification examination. Financial aid covers the textbook or bundle.

Savannah AAPC encourages membership and promotes student membership during MayMania. Sonya Burns reported that the textbooks are offered through the bookstore. Priscilla also stated that the discounted price is reflected in the AHIMA product code.

Daphney Bryant reported that West Georgia has added that the certification examination fee was included in the programmatic tuition fees so we should check with our Registrar's Office to add this benefit. Denese Davis stated that the VLab fee and any practicum fees are added into the student fees at Wiregrass. Georgia Northwestern requires the purchase of the RHIT prep textbook and the certification examination. The AHIMA product number can be accessed at www.ahima.org or contacting Lori Diehl.

The group reported mixed results as far as whether the credential is vital in getting employed. Members offered that students can save money by purchasing the bundle from the bookstore if they have financial aid, and if the students must pay out of pocket, the best price can be found at the AHIMA Bookstore using their student membership discount. Susan Bowman encouraged members to visit their regional employers and find out their viewpoint on credentials.

Programmatic Recruitment
Enrollment has decreased statewide in TCSG so recruitment ideas are needed to reverse the trend. Ideas presented in the chat room for promoting your program include:
- Use graduate video testimonials.
- Add graduates to your advisory board.
- 8th Grade and High School Career Expos
- Create presentation for College and Career Academies
- Food truck promotional events
- Hot dog/T-shirt giveaways
- Demonstration of EHR Go activities
- Contact Chamber of Commerce for volunteer opportunities and promote the program
- Girls on the Run – community events
- STEM
- College Open House
- Recruitment of Nurses and other Allied Health Professionals who are looking for a career change
- Work with college recruiters
- Plan B for other Allied Health competitive programs
- Encourage Marketing Department to include the HIMT program
- Technology Nights

Programmatic Special Needs
There were no needs expressed. The IFCC remains available to help all programs.

AHIMA 2025 Curricular Competencies
Feedback was sought to take to the AHIMA Workgroup. The consensus was that the curriculum is fine and does not need revision. How will AI be incorporated? How will AI impact ROI and medical coding? What technological skills should be addressed? Legislative advocacy progress needs to be leveraged to require RHIT and RHIA for HIM positions. Denese Davis stated that a legislative requirement would lead to closure of the degree program and used the requirement of an LPN as an example and how that mandate backfired.

Should we form a subcommittee to discuss programmatic rigor and analyze data to move forward with legislative advocacy? Denese Davis, Susan Bowman, and Sonya Burns volunteered. Questions were posed regarding salary potential and opportunities for diploma and degree, and feedback was that it is regional. Priscilla Waters stated her Advisory Board requires the RHIT credential for employment. Ogeechee does not offer a diploma program, and all students seek the degree, and the starting salary is approximately $17-18/hour. Most students are looking for remote job opportunities.

Next meeting is projected to be October 19, 2023, and will be in-person only per TCSG Leadership. Lisa Kagay lives in Michigan and will not be able to attend. She comes on campus twice a year for professional development. Donna Estes will not be able to travel due to ADA waiver. Dr. West said that she would relay the message to TCSG Leadership.

CONCLUSIONS	

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Create Subcommittee for Legislative Advocacy.	Annette Baker	Next meeting

NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT	Dr. West

DISCUSSION	The next IFCC meeting is will be in October 19 at 9:00 a.m. at Central Georgia Technical College.
CONCLUSIONS	

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Set up meeting	Dr. West, Annette Baker, Susan Bowman	

MEETING ADJOURNED	12:00 p.m.
MINUTES SUBMITTED BY:	Annette Baker, Lanier Technical College