

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: UCAP meeting
Date: Friday, December 11, 2009 2:08:43 PM

Please forward this on to the UCAP for their 12/17 meeting about MSU's veterinary technology program being closed.

I am an alumna of MSU's veterinary technology program and I was astonished to hear it might be shut down. I chose MSU for veterinary technology because the university is the best for the veterinary profession. It is also the only program around that lets tech students do their clinical rotations with the vet students in the clinic. This experience has helped me so much. The opportunities I received for my clinical rotations far surpassed what I could have had in a community college setting. The access to the DCPAH was amazing. I can't speak highly enough of the opportunities and experiences I had while in the program. Please don't close this program down. Not everyone just wants to get an associates degree at a community college. I know I wanted more.

-Lindsay Griffin
BS, LVT alumna 2005

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Veterinary Technician program NOT cut
Date: Friday, December 11, 2009 4:53:13 PM

Hi,

I'm a graduate of the Veterinary Technician program from 1985. I chose to attend MSU back then because it was THE BEST and probably at that time the ONLY program. Being the best program has always and still is the reason that I would still decide to come to MSU if I were looking today. I'm still a Vet Tech and very proud of the fact that I did graduate from here. I've worked at several private practices (Vet clinic's) and all of them would only hire me because I did graduate from the MSU program.

These other programs (Baker College, etc.) don't give the technical support that they learn here. We give them hands on experience in a high volume. Baker sends them to private practices where they get a few weeks of training doing vaccines. The comparison between a MSU grad and a Baker grad is very easy to tell by their technical skills. The technical skills are what the doctors are wanting. They don't want to have to take time out to train a new technician. They want them with the skills already in place. That's what MSU turns out as technicians.

In order to do research on campus with animals the university requires a Bachelor's degree along with a Vet Tech license. The other programs don't offer Bachelor's degrees. We are the only place that does. How does the university based on research plan to continue doing research without the program graduating Technicians with a Bachelor's degree? Once you lose the techs you have now where will you hire more from?

I now work at MSU Vet Teaching Hospital and I teach the vet students and Technician students. Cutting this program would affect how vet students learn to utilize technicians, it would also take away any help that we do get from teaching tech students how to do our job and then letting them do it so we can perform other duties. Basically, you would be removing the help we have from the students which then we would either need to hire more Licensed Vet Techs to replace this help or we get overtime. You can't be in two places at once, but sometimes just having a student with some knowledge of the job being in one place and you in the other is enough to help.

Thank you for your time

See ya later,

Elaine Striler, LVT
striler@cvm.msu.edu
Capital City Canine Club's Webpage: <http://cvm.msu.edu/~striler/cccc.htm>
My Webpage: <http://cvm.msu.edu/~striler/>

December 12, 2009

Dear UCAP Committee members:

I am writing to you in protest of the proposed elimination of the Veterinary Technology Program at Michigan State University. Yes, I am an educator in this Program and have been for the past 28 years. Alas, I am not concerned about my job, as I can find employment anywhere, as a Licensed Veterinary Technician. I am writing with grave concern for the deleterious effect this decision would have on my profession. I address you as a member of this profession. . . a member who has served her profession for over 30 years at local, State and national positions of leadership.

The Veterinary Technology Program at MSU gave birth to our profession in the late 1960s. Our Program was the first in the nation to be accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association in 1973. We have been leading the growth of the profession ever since. Over the past four decades, our profession has struggled to achieve recognition and respect within the veterinary community. In our infancy, we suffered similar opposition as our Nursing counterparts in human medicine. We have finally grown to the point that we are recognized, respected and appreciated in the veterinary community. Not only do most States in the nation credential veterinary technicians, but we have developed numerous boarded specialties. The numbers of veterinary technology educational programs in the nation has grown exponentially. However, with advances in veterinary medical care and the ever growing need for qualified technical support, all of the 180+ Programs in the nation cannot meet the demand for qualified veterinary technicians. The need for credentialed veterinary technicians is growing at a far greater rate than accredited educational programs can supply.

Looking exclusively at the State of Michigan, there are currently eight accredited educational programs in veterinary technology. Our Program at MSU is the ONLY one to offer a Bachelor's degree. The BS is vitally important for leadership roles in the profession, such as specialty credentialing, education, biomedical research and practice management. Our Program at MSU is the ONLY one in the State directly affiliated with a veterinary teaching hospital. In fact, our Program is only one of two in the nation directly affiliated with a veterinary teaching hospital. Purdue University holds our sister program. Other veterinary colleges are looking to us as the model institution for the integration of the veterinary health care team - training DVM and veterinary technician students side by side. It is this unique facet that is propelling our profession and all of veterinary medicine into the future of veterinary health care at an exponential rate.

If the Veterinary Technology Program at MSU is terminated, the veterinary technology profession and all of veterinary medicine will suffer. We will be set back decades in time. The shortage of qualified veterinary technicians will be magnified. Veterinary practitioners will be forced to hire non-qualified, uneducated support staff. The quality of medicine provided will diminish. Ultimately, the animals and the public we have vowed to protect and provide for will suffer. The ripple effect will reach far beyond our State. This will have an adverse national effect. Imagine eliminating key Nursing programs. The effect would be the same. This cannot be considered a pure budgetary issue. The stakes reach far beyond what money can buy.

The Veterinary Technology Program at Michigan State University has been, is and will continue to be the leader in veterinary technology education. Our graduates consistently achieve 100% passage on the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE). That is an unprecedented achievement. The DVM graduates of the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine cannot make such a claim. I have been in direct contact with many of my colleagues in veterinary technology education in the State and around the nation. All agree that if the Veterinary Technology Program at Michigan State University is eliminated, the entire profession will suffer, if not die. We cannot advocate for such an end. We have worked too hard over the past 40 years to develop this profession to where it is today.

I implore you, look at all of the facts. Consider the grave consequences. Do not permit termination of the Veterinary Technology Program at MSU.

Respectfully,

Dawn E. Christenson, LVT

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Veterinary Technician's Program
Date: Saturday, December 12, 2009 3:00:51 PM

It has come to my attention that the veterinary technician's program at MSU may be disbanded. As a veterinarian and MSU alumnus I hope this will not occur. Though an immediate cost saving measure to the school in the long run it will be more costly to the public and society the school serves.

Currently there is a national shortage of veterinary technicians and closure of the MSU program will only increase the problem. As a result of the absence of a technician tasks they would normally do would have to be done by the veterinarian, a higher paid professional thus increasing client costs. Also the veterinarian would have less time to see patients so animal suffering and human exposure to possible zoonotic diseases might increase. Overall this increases costs and reduces efficiency. I hope the decision will be reconsidered. Jacob Casper DVM MSU Class of 1959

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: vet tech program
Date: Saturday, December 12, 2009 5:27:34 PM

I want to express my deep concerns over the proposed closure of the veterinary technician/technology program at MSU. This program has long received national recognition as the best in the country and is 1 of only 2 located within a veterinary teaching hospital, where vet tech students receive premier training while providing important assistance to DVM students, faculty and staff. Moreover, vet tech students are 100% employable upon graduation. In this Michigan economy, educational programs that graduate students who can get jobs should be supported and continued, not discontinued. Please instead consider cut backs in programs that graduate students who are not employable so that we can get our economy back on track. We need to support the best that MSU has to offer with regards to training and employability and make reductions in degrees/programs with weaker records of training and employability.

Thank you for your attention.

Cheryl L. Swenson, DVM, PhD

December 13, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

When I heard that the Veterinary Technology Program at MSU was suggested to be cut by the Dean of the very college that we belong to, my heart sank. I did not want to believe it, and still can't fathom the idea.

I am a senior vet tech student who is in clinicals right now. When I heard the news, I felt betrayed. Why would the Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine want to cut our program? Doesn't he know and understand how extraordinary our program is? I also was thinking that if the dean of the very college that program is in does not support the Veterinary Technology career, who will? Veterinary Technologists all over the country have strived for a long time to be respected in the veterinary medicine world. They strive to be well utilized as part of a veterinary team. It is frustrating to see that veterinarians still hire personnel who do not have a veterinary technology degree and who do not have the appropriate knowledge to be a part of the animal health care team. I don't understand why a veterinarian would jeopardize their career and reputation by hiring a lay person. I would not choose to bring my animal to a veterinarian who doesn't hire licensed vet techs because they obviously do not believe in supporting others who are in the animal care profession. I also would not let someone who wasn't properly educated in drawing blood, administering vaccines or monitoring my pet under anesthesia work with my pets. I want someone who knows what danger signs are of my pet under anesthesia, or why a certain drug must be administered in the muscle and to know why it is not to go in the blood. I want someone who looks and recognizes problems and who knows how to quickly and appropriately react. If it is decided that the Veterinary Technology Program is to be cut, I believe it sends a message to the public and profession that it is ok to not hire Licensed Veterinary Technicians because if Michigan State University cut their program, and it was one of the best, it is therefore not an important program or career. If it is cut, it will greatly impact the profession in a negative way and all the people who've spent so much time teaching and making the profession successful will feel defeated.

I always loved animals as I was growing up, so naturally I wanted to become a veterinarian. It wasn't until I was in high school that my mom drove me to MSU to attend Vet-A-Visit. Vet-A-Visit is a day when the college opens up the doors to the public and informs them on the teaching hospital, the veterinary profession as well as the veterinary technology profession. The college is on display to help make aware of the many areas of interest someone can become educated in. I remember sitting in the large lecture hall and listening to Helen Mayer speak of the differences between a veterinarian and veterinary technician. I'd never thought of becoming a veterinary technician, but at that lecture, I learned the hands on skills and patient care is done most by a veterinary technician. I changed my focus and strived to become a veterinary technician. I have never regretted that decision. I looked into the Baker program in Muskegon since my parents live there and therefore cost of living would be much cheaper. The program was not comparable to MSU's. The cost was almost equivalent to attend Baker and the clinical experience I'd have to ask local vets on my own to accept me for the time. I was familiar with the few local vets and would not get the large variety of experience that I

would get at MSU. There was really no choice between the two schools. MSU is the best in the state, and the only college that offers a Bachelor Degree in Veterinary Technology, which is what I wanted and needed. There was no comparison; I wanted to go to State. I attended Vet-A-Visit numerous times as I was completing my Associates Degree. This kept me excited and remembering what I was building up for. I was ecstatic when I got my acceptance letter from Dr. Pazak, the Director of the Veterinary Technology Program and am very blessed and thankful I will graduate from MSU's CMV with a Bachelor degree in Veterinary Technology.

Michigan State University was the only college I wanted to get a degree from for Veterinary Technology, I'm blessed I was accepted. If it is not known, MSU is the only college that offers a bachelor degree in Veterinary Technology in the state of Michigan. MSU and Purdue are the only 2 colleges in the United States that offer the Veterinary Technology program along with the Veterinary program in a teaching hospital setting. This is invaluable. The senior students work together and learn to respect each other and work as a team. I believe it shows them how important it is to hire a Licensed, educated Veterinary Technician to assist them when they are out in practice.

By being a part of the MSU's Veterinary Technology Program, I will get to experience things I would have missed out on if I was attending another program. I will spend 6 weeks at the Detroit Zoo, learning how life would be if I was working at a zoo. I will spend 3 weeks learning about alternative medicine such as acupuncture in pets! I will spend 3 weeks at Rood & Riddle, a huge equine hospital in Kentucky. I will spend 3 weeks on a necropsy rotation at our own nationally recognized Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health, learning what the body does after it dies and helping determine what killed a specific animal to bring closure and understanding to a farmer or pet owner. Being at MSU allows for more of a variety of options for cases to be seen. At MSU, many referrals are sent here, cases the primary veterinarian can't figure out or does not have the equipment to diagnose. So being a student at MSU allows me to be a part of rare and extensive cases where I would not be given the opportunity to be a part of elsewhere. I can't say enough about the clinical portion of the program. I am thankful to learn from the clinicians who've written the books that we study from.

The classes are exceptional as well. They were very challenging and required more time than I thought I had, but I made it through. There were nights that I did not get much sleep and many events that I sacrificed to succeed in this program. I do not regret any at all. All the stressful times I've gone through will only make me hold my head high when I walk across that stage in May!

I've met with Dean Brown twice since I was made aware of the proposal to cut the program to discuss this issue further. He does not deny the integrity of the program yet he still blames money for the reason this elite program is proposed to be cut. I have a hard time believing it is just money related. I believe if a program that has 100% pass rate on Boards and is well known nationally for producing quality, educated students, that there has to be a way to save the program. MSU's Veterinary Technology program has been established since 1969 and accredited since 1973. How could it have survived for

so many years now suddenly is struggling? Is it that the influential personnel higher up believed in the program more? To show our support for the program, there were about 40 students that attended the meeting with the Board of Trustees in the beginning of November along with numerous clinicians and Licensed Veterinary Technicians from the teaching hospital. Another classmate and I gathered over 200 signatures from the hospital and from others who support keeping the program. I've spoke to veterinarians whom I've worked for and advised them about the situation as well as others in the hospital who've declared to only hire LVT's from MSU because of the distinction in education from MSU Vet Techs. Through networking, I've communicated to hundreds of people and let them know of the situation we are struggling with right now. The program has a lot of support in our own college as well as people in the profession outside of the college and the state. Many people have been and will be praying for the correct decision to be made as well as the numerous people who are involved in deciding the fate of the Veterinary Technology program and the future of the Veterinary Technology profession.

Thank you for your time,

Karla Seaver
SVTA member 2007-2010 (Treasurer 08-09)
Zoo & Wildlife Club 2008-2010
MSU Veterinary Technician graduate 2010

To The University Committee on Academic Programs:

Hello, my name is Monica Mezger, I am currently a sophomore here at MSU and applying for the Fall 2010 Veterinary Technology Class. I am writing you this letter to inform you on the reasons I decided to come to MSU for my Veterinary Technology Education and how I would be affected if the Veterinary Technology Program were to be cut. When applying to universities my senior year in High School, I applied to two schools specifically for their Veterinary Technology Program: University of Purdue and Michigan State University. I had gotten accepted into Purdue and was scheduled for an interview for their vet tech program. However, shortly after having an interview scheduled, I had received my letter from MSU in the mail stating that I was accepted. With no second guessing, I immediately cancelled my interview at Purdue and confirmed my acceptance into MSU.

MSU has been where I've always wanted to go for my Veterinary Technology education. The program here is nationally recognized and is one of the top programs in Michigan for Veterinary Technology. I want to learn from people who are leaders in their fields because it will not only push me to strive in performing to my best ability but allow me to gain knowledge that I would not from any other schools. The College of Veterinary Medicine is comprised of many different departments, service units, and research centers. The variety of experience and knowledge that I could gain from the college is, in my opinion, above any other and I do not want to settle for anything less. I want to be the best in my major and be recognized for the university that I attended. I chose Michigan State University in order to achieve this.

If the Veterinary Technology Program was indeed cut from MSU my future will significantly be altered and potentially put on hold. Thankfully, I am able to apply for the last available class, Fall 2010. However, I only have one chance to be accepted unlike every other program here at state where you can apply again in the following years if you were to be declined your first try. If I am not accepted for the Fall 2010 class, I will potentially have to transfer to another school. The years I had spent creating and forming my life here at MSU would be gone in an instant. I would have to go to another school, make sure I was on track to apply to their program (if not I would have to catch up on classes and ultimately be behind), and create a new life for myself when it wasn't even my choice. If I decided to continue at MSU, I would have to re-evaluate my career choice that I have spent years narrowing down and trying to prepare for. Then, if I decide on a different major I will be very behind on all the pre-requisites and have to constantly play catch-up. Again, changing majors would not be a decision I want to make, it will be a decision I am forced to make because the major I have so desperately wanted will be taken away from me.

I ask all of you to please think carefully about what decision you make. You are altering people's future and life for them. How can you take away somebody's hope, dreams and education? What if your major was going to be taken away from you?

Sincerely,
Monica Mezger

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: UCAP Vet Tech Meeting
Date: Sunday, December 13, 2009 11:43:10 PM

This email is in response to the news that the Veterinary Technology program at Michigan State is being considered to be cut from the programs available at Michigan State University.

I really hope you all decide that this program is worth having, not just in a financial way, but that it is very important to the students who aspire to be a part of animal care.

Michigan State inspires great respect among those who care for and/or own animals, and it is for this reason that when I decided to be a vet tech, I knew I wanted to earn my degree at Michigan State. MSU has the best reputation for teaching their students how to care for animals.

If this program ceased to be offered at Michigan State, I do not know where I would pursue this degree. It would be nothing short of a tragedy if this program were cut and I beg you to consider the consequences it would have on current students, future students, the reputation of MSU, and animals around the world.

Thank you for your time,

Megan Kobe
(current MSU student)

Hotmail: Powerful Free email with security by Microsoft. [Get it now.](#)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Vet Tech Program Cuts
Date: Sunday, December 13, 2009 3:03:37 PM

Dear Ms. Walther,

I am writing in support of keeping the veterinary technology program at Michigan State. Veterinary technology is a profession experiencing extreme job growth and demand and MSU has one of the highest caliber veterinary technology programs in the country, as well as offering the only 3-year degree of its kind (most other veterinary technicians have only a two year program and are not licensed as veterinary technologists). As a student who will be attending MSU's College of Veterinary Medicine to pursue a DVM degree next fall, I urge you to support the veterinary profession. Veterinary technologists are the nurses, lab technicians, surgery aides, and primary caregivers for our animals. To remove the vet tech program at MSU would cause a severe reduction in the number of highly trained, competent vet techs which would greatly decrease both animal and human health.

Kaitlin Lonc

--

Michigan State University
Senior-Zoology
MSU CVM Class of 2014
lonckait@msu.edu

From:
To:
Date:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Sunday, December 13, 2009 6:38:33 PM

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in response to the proposal of eliminating the Veterinary Technology program at MSU. It was stated by Dean Brown in a town hall meeting with the CVM faculty, staff and students that it is a difficult decision and he felt there was no other option. Dean Brown stated that there were only three arms of the CVM; research, doctoral veterinary program and the veterinary tech program, and there was little room for reduction in research and veterinary doctoral program.

I find it appalling that an administrator can make these drastic decisions without input from the affected program director: Dr Helene Pazak, CVM faculty and Veterinary Technology staff. This whole process was very devious, shady, and very unopened, frankly quite back alley like.

This is a nationally recognized program, and the only bachelor program associated with a veterinary school in the state of Michigan, and which is the one of the oldest programs in the nation. Other vet tech programs across the nation have used our program as their model. The program has the highest graduation rate (100%), the highest license test scores nationally and all the students are employed by the time they graduate. Not many programs at MSU are that successful.

This program is the nursing profession of veterinary medicine, working closely with veterinarians in food safety, animal/medical research, companion animal medicine. Students come to this CVM-MSU program because of afore mentioned, and maybe possibly of the integrity and commitment of MSU as a land grant institution.

This program is the ideal, for a land grant university: The Morrill Acts

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"The mission of these institutions as set forth in the 1862 Act is to focus on the teaching of agriculture, science and engineering as a response to the industrial revolution and changing social class rather than higher education's historic core of classical studies."

These students are well prepared for the areas of study in agriculture (production med), science (medical research/research lab assist.), and engineering (bio/mechanical labs). This is exactly the type of program the Morrill Act was intended to produce.

My hope is that the programs success and achievements will be given thoughtful consideration, more than just numbers and percentage of savings on a spreadsheet. That Dean Brown would actually have an open discussion to include, Dr. Pazak, on budget reductions and that the program will be saved.

It is tough to promote the integrity of MSU when the university is aggressively terminating degrees for the dollars of research and global outreach. A potential incoming student might have to wonder, will my degree be next in a year or two, and do I take the risk?

Judy McNeil , LVT
Veterinary Teaching Hosp.
Tech I

Judy McNeil

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Veterinary Technology Program
Date: Sunday, December 13, 2009 7:50:59 AM

Dear Sandra Walther,

This letter is to be provided to UCAP for their December 17th meeting.

I am deeply saddened by the proposed cut of MSU's Veterinary Technology program. As a graduate of the DVM program in 2004, I know the experiences I had working with the veterinary technician students were invaluable to my education. I now teach veterinary medicine at the GASC Technology Center in Flint, MI and often direct prospective students to MSU's excellent veterinary technology program.

If the program is cut, not only will we all miss one of the highest quality programs in the USA, but the veterinary medical students will also miss out on an invaluable part of their education and training. Please reconsider this cut. The veterinary technician program at MSU is simply something which cannot be replaced or duplicated elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Jill Klumpp, DVM
CVM class of 2004

8353 Carole Lane
Fenton, MI 48430

(810) 760-1444, ext. 225

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Veterinary Technology Program
Date: Monday, December 14, 2009 1:33:44 PM

This letter is to be provided to the University Committee on Academic Programs (UCAP) for their December 17, 2009 meeting.

I am against the decision to close the College of Veterinary Medicine's, Veterinary Technology program

Michigan State's Veterinary Technology Program (a nationally recognized Veterinary Program) is the best program that offers students hands on experience. The technician students that graduate from this program are not only more prepared academically but the level of skills they learn here, enables them to be much more effective in the work environment.

I entered the MSU Veterinary Technology Program in 1981. I chose this particular school because it offered a far superior education in Michigan and throughout the US. This program allows students to train alongside both Licensed Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians in a clinical setting. The advantage is that students graduate with all the necessary skills to become excellent technicians. Veterinarians specifically search for Veterinary Technology graduates because they know how good the program is, here at Michigan State. Graduates of the DVM program know what Veterinary technology graduates can do and how they can be an asset to the overall patient care.

I have been a technician for over 26 years. Over the years our clinic has hired non-MSU veterinary technology graduates. Most of them are dismissed because they lack the necessary skills and knowledge to work in the veterinary clinic. This costs the university money. It takes time and money to train these individuals and most of them don't work here past their 6 month probationary period.

Due to recent cutbacks, I have lost a full time person in my area of the hospital. I am now doing the work of two people. My job requires a lot of pushing, pulling and lifting. I rely on Veterinary Technology students to help get patients ready for medical and surgical procedures. Our veterinary technology students are able to help both the veterinary staff and veterinary students, treat patients and provide a level of care that only Michigan State can provide.

By closing the Veterinary Technology program, the University would severely hurt our workforce and the overall efficiency of this hospital . Closing of this program would affect other practices that count on being able to hire new graduates from this program and the continuing education that the college provides to licensed veterinary technicians. This is a well known and respected program that has set the standard of what a Veterinary Technician is to the veterinary profession.

Sincerely,

Pam Bunce, LVT



Paul E. Howard, DVM, MS
Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Surgeons

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December 13, 2009

Dear Committee Members

This e mail is written to voice my strong, unequivocal support for the continuation of the veterinary technician program at Michigan State University. I was recently made aware that this program is slated for termination. If I may be so blunt, doing so would be a grievous mistake. As a 1975 graduate of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Michigan State University I had the opportunity to work side by side with veterinary technician students in the teaching hospital. During my early career in private practice and later as a surgical resident at Cornell and a faculty member at both Oklahoma State University and the University of Wisconsin, I found it interesting that veterinarians often had difficulty affording the technician their rightful place in the veterinary setting. Whether it was a blow to their egos or simply a lack of trust in the skills of the veterinary technician wasn't important. What was important was that these veterinarians lacked the knowledge of what value these trained technicians brought to the profession. On the other hand, those of us who had had the opportunity to work side by side with technicians, beginning as students, saw it simply as the way things were done. We were able to utilize the talents of the technicians to complement ours, ultimately providing the best possible care to our patients. And to ask the obvious – is it not our obligation as clinicians to provide the best care we possibly can?

Having been in the private sector again for 20 years I am not totally up to speed on the status of technician programs. Yet, I believe I am correct in saying that Michigan State offers one of the few programs where technicians and veterinary students work together in a veterinary teaching hospital. This alone gives the MSU technician student a huge advantage over students in those programs that do not offer this opportunity. I believe the track record of the veterinary technician program is well known and greatly respected throughout the country. I have been able to see firsthand the talents and abilities of graduates of the MSU program. One of them is my wife, Rebecca, who subsequently helped establish a veterinary technician program in Massachusetts, supervised the intensive care facility at Oklahoma State University and later supervised all employed veterinary technicians at the University of Wisconsin. When I returned to private practice, Rebecca was my first and only employee until I was able to hire more technical staff. Suffice it to say she did it all. My point in saying all this is that I do not believe Rebecca is unusual or extraordinary. She is one of several graduates of the MSU program that have gone on to provide valuable expertise to their veterinary employers. I ask you to seriously reconsider the recommendation to discontinue the MSU veterinary technician program and consider the serious, deleterious ramifications of losing the MSU program. Terminating the MSU veterinary technician program will deprive the veterinary community of a very valuable asset, one we can ill afford to lose. I respectfully ask each of you to think carefully and wisely before casting your vote.

The VVSC is now offering total hip replacement surgery. Please call the Surgical Center if you have any questions about this procedure.

Thank you in advance for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Paul E. Howard, DVM, MS
MSU Class of 1975

December 14, 2009

Megan Demske
243
Abbot Hall
UCAP

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is Megan Demske and I have recently transferred into the Veterinary Technology Program. Recently I became aware the Veterinary Technology program may be eliminated from MSU offerings. I do not think I will ever forget the day I read about the potential cuts MSU is considering. A friend pointed out the article in the State Newspaper and I immediately experienced panic to a degree of near hysteria. Everything I have worked for was evaporating!

My attendance at MSU is a direct result of this career study being offered. It is common knowledge that MSU has one of the finest veterinary programs available anywhere. I cannot understand why elimination of the Veterinary Technology program would even be a consideration. I have always had an affinity for nature and I marvel at the diversity of both wild and domestic animals. Of particular interest is animal adaptation to human environments. I am currently on course to apply for inclusion in the Veterinary Technology program next fall, thus you might understand my angst with your agenda.

Before entering high school my eighth grade writing teacher proposed that we make a list of the things we want to accomplish, whether it was where we wanted to go for college, to graduate, or what our dream job would be. After graduation we all received our letters and in my letter it said that my dream job would be to work with animals and to go to the best school for it, Michigan State University. Before receiving the letter, the college I was already enrolled at was Grand Valley State University. I had my classes all lined up and my deposit and scholarships were all sent in. Once I saw this letter I knew that MSU was where I truly wanted to go, so I followed my eighth grade goals and came to MSU. Once I entered MSU I knew I did not go wrong in my decision. This was the place I wanted to be!

My freshmen year here I was the typical freshmen, not knowing what major it is I wanted to pursue. In spite of this I tried out different classes that I thought were appealing such as teaching, kinesiology, accounting, and many more, but none did meet my satisfaction. Over the summer I went home and, once again, came across that eighth grade letter. I knew what I had to do when I got back to Michigan State for my sophomore year, change my major to Veterinary Technology.

In the end I joined this Program because this has been and always will be my dream job. In the last two years MSU has become my home, and the MSU environment - my family. I do not wish to transfer to another college and I implore you to give extra consideration to a program which provides special status to not only its' students but also the university.

I have no idea how many students are "in my shoes", and I do not profess to understand the many financial issues confronting your committee. It would seem however the esteem and opinions of many in the Veterinary School are at great risk. I am asking for myself and untold numbers of others "please do not cut this program."

Sincerely,

Megan Demske

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Veterinary Technician School
Date: Monday, December 14, 2009 7:58:32 PM

Dear Sandra Walther,

As a former Michigan State University undergrad, I am saddened to hear about MSU's Veterinary Technician school possibly being canceled. I planned on coming back to MSU specifically for the excellent veterinary technician program.

After volunteering at the humane society and at a veterinary clinic, I realized my passion in life was in animal care. I decided to take the initiative in changing my career. I contacted Sarah Ahrens-Tomasik, the advisor at MSU's Veterinary Technician school and started on my new path. I have taken some classes to meet the pre-requisites as well as accumulated hours required for enrollment. I was excited in the prospect of coming back to MSU and starting a new career.

I have done quite a bit of research, and by far, MSU's veterinary technician program is the most superior program provided in Michigan. It would have been a great honor to be a part of such a fine establishment. I strongly urge you to reconsider canceling this program. With so few qualified veterinary technician schools available in Michigan, it would be a shame to remove the best in the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions for me, please feel free to contact me via email or by phone: 616.516.0460.

Sincerely,
Tran Nguyen

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: vet tech program
Date: Monday, December 14, 2009 8:47:37 AM

Dear Ms Walther,

I am writing because I am appalled at the thought of cutting MSU's Vet Tech Program. In my opinion, you may as close the Vet School too. Vet techs have an integral place in the world of veterinary medicine just as nurses have an integral part of human medicine.

Would you ever consider cutting the nursing school? Of course not! It's just as important as the medical school!

MSU's vet school has such a wonderful reputation and MSU was way ahead of its time when it created the Vet Tech Program. It seems like everyone wanted to emulate what MSU was doing. The opportunity for vet students to work alongside vet tech students is invaluable and special. No community college can offer this. And this is just as valuable for the vet students as it is the techs.

Back in 1975 when I graduated most of the veterinarians in the "real world" didn't see the value in having a certified/licensed Vet Tech. I believe one reason is they never had the opportunity to work with Vet Techs and weren't aware of what they could bring to the practice. That attitude is now like an old wives tale! It just doesn't belong in today's world of veterinary medicine.

Vet techs are now in high demand. And I believe MSU had an important part in making this happen. Don't take that away. The state of Michigan needs to keep moving forward, especially during these tough economic times. Cutting the program is going to be a step in the WRONG direction.

Sincerely
Lily Zaidenworm Flanagan
(1975 graduate)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Veterinary Technology Program
Date: Monday, December 14, 2009 10:02:27 PM
Attachments: [MSU_VT.doc](#)

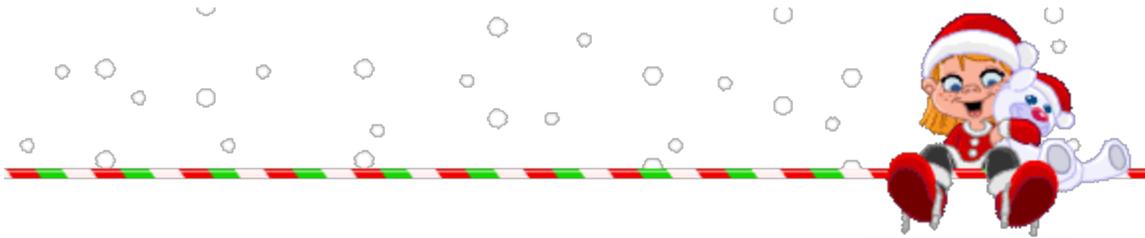
Dear Ms. Walther

Please find the attachment regarding the proposed termination of the veterinary technician program at MSU. As a former graduate of this program I would be extremely disappointed if this proposal became reality. The veterinary profession would be severely impacted in a detrimental way if this program is lost. I urge everyone involved to give this decision careful consideration before a major mistake is made.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Howard
Graduate, MSU Veterinary Technology Program
Class of 1973



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Dr. Chris Brown, Dean
College of Veterinary Medicine
G100 VMC
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan 48824

December 14, 2009

Dear Dean Brown:

The news that Michigan State University is considering the deactivation and termination of one of the nation's premier Veterinary Technology Programs makes me wonder if the local Veterinary College administrators understand how unique the Veterinary Technology Program truly is.

I am a former Associate Professor in the MSU Veterinary Technology Program and now I am the Veterinary Technology Program Director at Alfred State College in Upstate New York. I left MSU to begin the Alfred State program in 1999, after 9 years with the MSU program. If you look closely at my program you will see that in many ways it emulates the MSU program. However, there are two features of the MSU program I can not duplicate. The first is the BS degree MSU offers, I have not as of yet been able to move from the Associates to the BS degree format and when I do move my program to that level it will still fall far short of MSU. The second feature makes the MSU Vet Tech Program one of most unique programs in the country and is the reason why a BS offering at Alfred State falls far short of MSU. This feature is the fact that the MSU program is integrally immersed in the Veterinary College, though many think it is a separate entity. This fact makes the MSU Veterinary Technology Program extremely unique, of the 165 AVMA accredited programs in the United States only Michigan State and Purdue University have programs based in Colleges of Veterinary Medicine.

It is my hopes that you understand that a graduate of the MSU Veterinary Technology Program receives an education that is envied by many. Your students have the opportunity to gain cutting edge knowledge from instructors who are leaders in their field. Both the Veterinary and Veterinary Technology students gain the experience, while in college, of working in an environment that builds trust and understanding between professionals that will make up the Veterinary Medical Team. I would give anything to be able to provide that kind of educational experience for my students.

MSU is one of 19 veterinary technology programs that offer a BS degree in the United States. However, it is only one of two programs offering a BS degree that is housed within a college of veterinary medicine. Has the local administrators looked at the possibilities of simply eliminating the Certificate in Veterinary Technology and taking the program to solely a 4 year degree offering. If you consider this route perhaps you may also want to consider designing the degree option that will allow the possibilities of a nearly seamless transfer from other Associate degree vet tech programs across the

country. Have there been any discussion or consideration about the possibilities of developing advanced course work that may be able to enhance the efforts of veterinary technicians who are seeking Specialty Certification in Anesthesia, Animal behavior Dentistry , Internal Medicine and Emergency and Critical Care. These two concepts seemingly would be a method to enhance the vet tech offerings at the college and generate funds. As a veterinary technician educator and program director I am constantly looking for veterinary technicians who have Master Degrees to fill tenure tract teaching positions. However, if you look around the BS degree is the terminal degree of the profession. Have there ever been any thoughts or consideration given to investigating the potential of developing a Master's degree offering in Veterinary Technology. Many institutions of higher education have a mandate for MS degrees to enter a tenure tract position, there are 165 vet tech programs accredited by the AVMA and more coming. I believe many of these programs might be interested in their instructors pursuing a Master's in Veterinary Technician Education.

Michigan State's College of Veterinary Medicine also employs many Licensed Veterinary Technicians. It is my understanding that the majority of these trusted professionals are graduates of MSU. If the program is terminated fewer students educated in the research oriented environment of a college of veterinary medicine will be available for you to employ.

Michigan State University is the First Veterinary Technology Program to be accredited by the AVMA and was only preceded in existence by SUNY Delhi. I can not believe that termination of such a historic program will solve the economic problems currently facing MSU. The Veterinary Technology Program at Michigan State is truly unique and if marketed on those qualities it should continue to have a long history in Veterinary Technician Education in this country and the world.

Respectfully submitted by,

Melvin C. Chambliss, DVM
Director
Veterinary Technology Program
Alfred State College
Alfred New York 14802
607-587-3009
chamblm@alfredstate.edu

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: UCAP 12/17/09 meeting - written commentary regarding Veterinary Technology Program
Date: Tuesday, December 15, 2009 1:33:41 AM

Dear Ms. Walther,

As both a 1974 graduate of MSU's Veterinary Technology Program, and a previous academic and clinical staff member, it is quite alarming to hear that serious thought is being given to eliminating the Vet Tech Program. Without a doubt, it has historically been one of the most highly regarded training programs in large part due to its affiliation with the College of Veterinary Medicine and its clinical programs. Very few veterinary technology programs in the country have this sort of enviable relationship which provides excellent depth and breadth of clinical training. It is well recognized that MSU's graduates are consistently more qualified than their community college trained counterparts. Also, the experience of veterinary medical students is greatly enhanced by working alongside vet tech students; as future employers, it is critical that veterinary medical students learn with these technical professionals.

I hope that the University Committee on Academic Policy will have the foresight to recommend that the Veterinary Technology Program be retained. Short-sighted budgetary concerns that are driving this elimination proposal should be resoundingly rejected.

Respectfully,

Gail C. Wolz
Bellevue, Washington

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: veterinary technology program
Date: Tuesday, December 15, 2009 9:02:22 AM

I am writing concerning the elimination of the Veterinary Technology program. I am a Licensed Veterinary Technician of 28 years at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital Surgical Oncology Department and a graduate of the MSU Veterinary Technology Program.

The Veterinary Technology students are extremely valuable to the clinical LVTs in the hospital setting. While we are teaching them, they also come to us very well-trained and ready to help us with our work. They work in all areas of the hospital and have more hands-on training than the veterinary students so they are able to help us teach the veterinary students. Since the working students have been removed from the hospital and LVT positions have been eliminated due to budget restraints, our work load as clinical technicians has increased. We count on the veterinary technician students to assist us both in doing our jobs and teaching the veterinary students. I doubt that the cost of replacing them with paid individuals has been taken into account when adding up the savings by eliminating this amazing program.

The veterinary technology students are in high demand in the veterinary community and MSU students are considered the cream of the crop. Students that come to MSU for the veterinary technology students are looking for a 4 year degree so they can pursue research, teaching and other avenues that require more education. If they wanted to attend a community college, they certainly would have saved the money and gone there to begin with. There are many solid reasons they chose MSU for their education.

Would the human medical school consider eliminating nursing from its program? Of course not! Human nurses are valued members of the human medical team and society realizes the value they bring to the medical team. Veterinary Technicians have been struggling to achieve the same recognition in their fields. While the doctors that work with us, the patients we care for, and the hospitals that hire us realize our value and potential, apparently the CVM College does not. Veterinary Technicians are an integral part of the veterinary medical team. We work in every area of the VTH providing anesthesia, skin tests, skin biopsies, chemotherapy, surgical support, physical therapy, nursing care, client communication, enter charges and the list goes on. I think it is fair to say that the VTH could not run without the LVTs just as a human hospital could not run with out the RNs. When we hear that the program is going to be eliminated it lets us know that we are not a valuable member of the team. Not all veterinary colleges are created equal and neither are all veterinary technology programs. MSU has built up their program to be one of the best, if not the very best, in the nation. To eliminate that is absolutely ridiculous.

I certainly hope MSU will give the veterinary technology program an opportunity to find ways to make their program more profitable as I feel that veterinary technicians are valued team members of the veterinary community and the MSU program is highly superior to other 2 year programs available in Michigan. The students are in high demand upon graduation and it greatly benefits our veterinary students to work along side technician students. Also, the work load will become too great for the clinical technicians and veterinary students to handle without the support of the technician students.

Sincerely,
Lynn Ball, LVT
MSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital, Surgical Oncology Department