New member to the MLT Advisory Committee, Rory Hollins from Human Resources Department at Puget Sound Blood Center was introduced and welcomed.

Lynn Emmert reported back that Renton Technical College’s MLT Program is an Associate Degree program. Molly will send MLT Program Informational Meeting notices electronically to committee members to post at work (attached). Molly and Sue thanked Roxann Gary, Rory Hollins, and Linda Breiwick for reading and grading the MLT applicant essays. Minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Roxann gave a power point presentation on an article she found “Laboratory Managers’ Views on Attrition and Retention of Laboratory personnel” Discussion was invited concerning the high firing rate of MLTs vs MTs. Some ideas presented by members included: clinical expectations of MLTs were too high, (MLTs do the same work as MTs), maturity level, lack of “soft” skills”, and professionalism. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Berta Lloyd, Director of Professional/ Technical Programs at Shoreline Community College discussed the WorkKeys assessment tool which is available to assess and help build soft skills. Molly and Sue review with Berta and add as an agenda item for a committee meeting.

Sue spoke about her MLT Program presentation to students at Edmonds Community College’s Laboratory Assistant Program. We have one student who is applying this year from their program, and 2 more who are interested in applying next year. Erika Ferreri, instructor from Edmond’s Comm. College, will videotape Sue’s presentation this Fall to show students at Bellevue Community College.

Molly spoke about the difficulties in obtaining clinical practicum sites. UW and Cloverpark place students in Fall and Winter quarters for clinical training. A new MLT Program at Renton Technical College will place MLT students in clinical sites Spring quarter at the same time that we have students at clinical training. Anticipating few clinical training sites Spring quarter, and wanting to accept as many qualified students as possible, the Shoreline MLT Program will now offer clinical practicum classes in fall quarter as well as spring. We will be able to accept more students, increase the number of clinical training times and increase flexibility in training schedules. The MLT
Program has added new clinical training sites which include Pacific Physicians Laboratory in Edmonds, Cascade Valley Hospital in Arlington, and Island Hospital in Anacortes. We are starting discussions with Snoqualmie Hospital.

Barbara VanDrooof spoke about the External Review report that she did on health occupation career programs at Shoreline Community College. She interviewed many people in Health Occupation careers to assess needs and how well our programs are meeting those needs. Recommendations for the Medical Laboratory Technology Program were the following:

- Specimen processing,
- Reassessing phlebotomy for gaps in curriculum,
- Age appropriate approaches,
- Fulltime faculty overseeing this program,
- Two on Two programs in the future
- Assessment of second clinical year to include more complexity, critical thinking components and group projects.

Sue is working on a new Laboratory Basics class which would be required for students seeking a Certificate of Completion in phlebotomy classes. Committee members were given a draft of course objectives and asked to comment. Sue talked about the new chemistry analyzer purchased with funds from Professional/Technical Development. This analyzer will allow the students to perform AMA panels.

The Phlebotomy Practicum is currently 1 week training and will change to 2 weeks for phlebotomy students. More healthcare facilities are screening potential employees requiring 250 blood draws. The MLT students will continue to train 1 week in phlebotomy.

There are 15 students in clinical sites this spring who will graduate August 2006. A few have already been offered jobs at their practicum training sites. Thirty one students applied to the MLT Program for 2006-2007. We have 5 returning students. We hope to be able to accept 20-22 this year (including 5 returning part time students).

Molly asked committee members for help with the Facility Survey form (attached). A draft survey will be emailed to the MLT Advisory Committee in July. Your feedback will help us asking for information that we want to better prepare our students for the workplace.

The next meeting is tentatively set for Opening Week (September 22-28th) in the fall to coincide with “Shoreline Salutes”. An email will be sent with the exact date as soon as this information is available.

Agenda items:

1. continued discussion on MLTs in the workplace
2. report on WorkKeys Assessment tool and how best to use the assessment tool
3. committee feedback on Laboratory Basics course