St. Petersburg College
Early Childhood Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Members in Attendance: Anne Sullivan, Vikki Yates, Linda Lynch, Bonnie Touchton, Brett Engisch, Virginia Irving, Gino Cote, Laura Woodard

Guests: Gary Graham, Ann Hofmeister, Mona Jackson, Sandy Smith, Claudia Decker

6:35PM Welcome and Introductions

Minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.

Chair: Linda Lynch opened meeting with discussion of Old Business:

Topic: Old Business

1. Online Degree Offering

Discussion: Update on online enrollment. Anne will be meeting with CyberAdvisors on eCampus to facilitate enrollment of out of county students. Group viewed the additions and revisions to the ECE website.

Action: continue to request feedback re: any changes or additions to make the website more 'user friendly'

2. Expanding Adjunct Faculty

Discussion: Increase in online enrollment especially drives the need for additional faculty; Adjunct Faculty Fair to be held at SPC later this month.

Action: Anne will update committee at Fall meeting

 3. Infant/Toddler Conference

  Discussion: Excellent numbers and very positive feedback from attendees

Action: proposed date for 2011 is January 28th; update at Fall meeting

Topic: New Business

1. Development of Demonstration/Model School

Discussion: Item moved to New Business since recent events have moved this initiative along. Sandy Smith shared potential use of PTEC South building; meeting tomorrow at site with members of the community team – JWB, CCC, Pinellas County Schools, SPC,

Early Learning Coalition, Pinellas Health Department and City of St. Petersburg. Goal is to create a 'model' center to meet the needs of children and families and also to serve the professional development needs of early childhood providers and caregivers in our county.

Action: Updates at the initiative moves forward; Anne will send information via email to the Committee and full report will be provided at Fall meeting

2. CONNECT Module Pilot Program through UNC/Chapel Hill

Discussion: Update on online materials provided by the Frank Porter Graham Institute re: embedded interventions for young children with special needs. Anne used the materials in the Intro to Special Needs course this past session; very positive feedback from students; materials will be moved from the Intro course to the follow-up course, Practical Strategies (elective course in the A.S. degree)

Action: No action at this time

3. Discussion of 12-Credit Certificate in Preschool Education

Discussion: Description of 12-credit certificate on the Curriculum Frameworks at DOE which several Community Colleges are providing in their programs. Concerns from the committee included the confusion that might occur between the certificate (12 credits) and the full degree along with possible confusion with other mandated certificates etc (CDAE).

Action: the A.S.
 program will continue as currently offered

4. Infant/Toddler Courses

Discussion: Online enrollment may possibly increase student capacity and possibility of adding an Infant/Toddler track in the A.S. degree. Courses specifically for that age will be developed as possible options in the degree requirements, not as additional electives.

Action: Update at Fall meeting re: interest expressed in community and current enrollment figures

Topic: Community News and Sharing

Discussion: Bonnie shared information on a training held at St. Ignatius in Tarpon Springs and discussion continued about providing training in both north and south Pinellas.

Mona distributed a flyer for an upcoming meeting with providers to open a dialogue about licensing concerns.

Gary discussed the Advisory Committee survey and showed the members the Advisory Committee website

Topic: Advisory Committee Recommendations

1. Contined involvement with the Demonstration Center project
2. Possible visit to other Reggio-inspired programs in our state
3. Possible development of a student chapter of Pinellas Early Childhood Association
4. Recruit a current student in the ECE program to join the Advisory Committee