

**Sign Language Advisory Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 30th, 2016**  
**Clearwater campus**  
**ES 104 4:30 pm**

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Carlson at 4:35 pm.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- *Board Members Present:* Vicky Fales, Jose Gutierrez, The Honorable Judge Boyer, Rosa Rodriguez
- *Board Members Absent:* Sammie Elser, Daniel LeMay, Chris Wagner
- *SPC Attendees:* Dr. Beth Carlson, Carol Downing, Sam Harris, Marika Robinson, Shelbi Gage, Franklin Smith, Yary Santiago
- *Interpreters* – Joe and Rachel

II. MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Read

Motion to approve by: Judge Boyer seconded by Vicky Fales

III. BUSINESS

Recruitment Efforts: Majors Fairs, Pinellas County Advisors, Collaboration with other Colleges

In the summer, advisors from Pinellas County high schools met at the Clearwater campus. Beth Carlson outlined general requirements for the SLIP program, described the types of students who are a good fit for the program and reviewed the course sequence process.

Jose Gutierrez suggested that there be more collaborations with other colleges teaching ASL. Discussion followed on the collaborative efforts between Jacksonville State College, Miami Dade and SPC on the Florida state standards. The Florida Department of Education has these standards in effect now. Carol Downing mentioned that not all programs use the same textbook, which makes it difficult to collaborate. Sam Harris identified that assessment must align with the textbooks and various colleges have different standards. Marika Robinson agreed that it is difficult to collaborate when objectives vary across institutions. Yary Santiago noted that Hillsborough Community College and the University of South Florida have the same curriculum and assessments in place.

Sam Harris supported our SPC deaf role models for teaching and developing assessments in reference to the development of the ASL I Common Final. Yary Santiago and Marika Robinson, who assisted with the prompts for our test, stated that other colleges do not emphasize deaf role models in the same way as SPC has been doing. There was discussion regarding Hillsborough Community College and their ITP program, and Vicky Fales conferred that Hillsborough Community College is closing their ITP program and has shifted their major to Deaf Studies.

Judge Boyer commented that past collaborations with Tennessee and Kentucky through PepNet have weakened. This is primarily because PepNet focuses more on the services to deaf students taking classes on campus and very little on Sign Language Interpreting Programs.

Beth Carlson stated that current enrollment in ASL classes included nearly 700 students on five campuses. She conducted a survey with the students in the ASL/SLIP online collaborative course and found that 20% of the respondents, roughly 30 students, expressed an interest in the SLIP program but had not declared SLIP as a major. In response to this, the faculty and SLIP advisor held a meeting for students to discuss the program and to make contact with the students. Unfortunately, there were less than 15 students who took part the meeting.

Jose Gutierrez asked how many of the students were taking ASL simply to fulfill their foreign language requirements, and it was noted that a large percent of students start out seeking only foreign language credit but then gain an interest in interpreting or deaf education. Jose Gutierrez also asked how many students were currently in the SLIP sequence. Carol Downing reported that there were around 15. She also stated that promotions for SPC/SLIP that occur at the Major Fairs has served as a good tool for recruitment.

Beth Carlson reported that new brochures have been developed for the SLIP program and that Sam Harris was working on a promotional video that would be placed on the SLIP homepage.

Vicky Fales encouraged faculty to invite interpreters to share their work in the ASL 1-IV classes as guest speakers can serve as an exemplary role model which might entice more students to the program. Jose Gutierrez mentioned that the average salary should be included when recruiting students, and discussion followed on what the average salary was for full time working interpreters. Judge Boyer suggested that interpreters should be present at all events and fairs for visibility. Carol Downing noted that several advanced students have been in attendance at college wide events. Jose Gutierrez questioned whether SPC has a recruitment staff or whether it was the responsibility of each department to manage recruitment. Beth Carlson noted that we have not had our own recruitment staff. Vicky Fales suggested that orientation for SPC should involve the SLIP program. Judge Boyer also suggested that visibility of interpreters at the SPC Board meetings, which are free to the public, would be beneficial. Rosa Rodriguez recommended that the Silent Titans ASL Club have an individual who serves is a recruiter position and works with local high schools. Vicky Fales seconded that SPC needs a full time recruiter for the SLIP program.

Franklin Smith commented that many ASL students come to tutor with the Family Center on Deafness and they gain interest in the SLIP program after working with the deaf students and staff. Sam Harris noted that the SLIP video will be an additional tool for recruitment when it is displayed on the homepage of the SLIP program. Franklin Smith suggested that the video should also be shown to local high schools for dual enrolled students. Sam Harris then showed the advisory board the draft of the recruitment video. Jose Gutierrez recommended that the video include interpreters working on jobs. This makes the work visible and students can see what the role of interpreters in action. Carol Downing recommended that a list of local interpreting agencies should posted as a banner on the SLIP homepage. Those in attendance all congratulated Sam Harris on his work with the video recruitment tool.

Shelbi Gage, president of the Silent Titans, reported to the advisory board that the Silent Titans ASL Club had recently proposed a one day trip to the Orlando Silent Weekend for all SPC students. The student government awarded \$7,000 through the campus wide initiative monies for the travel and registration for 36 students and four faculty/staff.

Carol Downing discussed the “revamping” of USF’s program credits and the importance of our articulation plan for transfer. Graduating SLIP students at SPC will be also be taking the written part of the National Interpreting Certification test which will assist students in the transfer to USF and ensure that our standards are parallel with USF.

It was noted by Vicky Fales and Carol Downing that the legislation for educational interpreting licensure did not pass in Tallahassee, which was a huge disappointment.

#### Standardized Final and Competencies/AL I & ASL II Objectives Revision

Scores continue to improve on the standard final.

#### IV. NEW BUSINESS

##### Viability Report (uploaded on SharePoint)

Judge Boyer suggested that rather than viewing the entire report that we save the discussion for our next meeting.

Judge Boyer was congratulated on his retirement.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.