

Sign Language Advisory Board Meeting
Thursday, March 14, 2013
4:30 pm

MEMBER ATTENDEES: The Honorable Bruce Boyer, Mary Ann Ziegler

SPC ATTENDEES: Amy Apicerno, Crystal Blackburn, Dr. Martha Campbell, Dr. Beth Carlson, Krista Fusari, Mike Henry, Dr. Shirley Oakley, Caylynn "KC" Pearson, Marika Robinson, Dustin Smith

INTERPRETERS: Beth Barnes, Stephanie Wyatt

Dr. Oakley called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. Introductions followed.

REVIEW OF FALL (9/6/12) MINUTES (Dr. Oakley)

After everyone reviewed the fall minutes, Dr. Oakley asked for any corrections. Per Crystal Blackburn, "Another person" on page 3 is actually Rebecca Hill.

Judge Boyer moved to accept the minutes with addition of Rebecca Hill; seconded by Mary Ann Ziegler. Minutes approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fallon Brizendine is no longer with SPC and has moved somewhere else. We were very disappointed to see her go.

Carol Downing is now with us as faculty as a percent of load beginning this summer. We are delighted that she has joined us. Carol is very well known in the community.

SEQUENCING

Several faculty gave feedback regarding the new course sequencing for SLIP. Dr. Oakley thanked the faculty for their questions and observations.

Dr. Oakley said the new sequence came as a result of last summer's committee meetings. Dr. Campbell has taken the new sequence and the changes that have been made to Curriculum and Instruction and they've approved these changes so they will go into effect in fall of this year. Dr. Oakley said that one area that we've been discussing is making Fingerspelling an elective for students who may want to fill in some of the gaps.

KC Pearson commented that she has noticed a growing trend of struggles appearing in the transition from ASL I and II into ASL III and Structure. She suggested that the department relook at ASL I and II and the instructional delivery in those classes. Dr. Oakley said she thought that was a good suggestion for our faculty.

Mike Henry said we currently have about 10 adjunct instructors on 5 different campuses teaching ASL I and ASL II. So there is a great deal of variety across different campuses.

Dr. Oakley added that we have made some changes in the textbooks trying to be consistent instead of some using one textbook and others using another and we're hoping that will help too.

Crystal wanted to add that she loves the theory of ASL I and II being taught in preparation for the possibility that students might want to be interpreters.

COMMUNICATIONS WEBSITE REVIEW (Dr. Oakley)

Dr. Oakley wanted to draw attention to the SLIP packets. They are in the process of being updated and will continue with updates to the instructors. She asked that Board members review the packets and send recommended corrections to her.

Dr. Oakley asked for e-mail corrections that she can forward to Barbara Wolter. Dr. Oakley gave kudos to Barbara for her excellent work with the packet and website.

Dr. Oakley said that we intend to make necessary adjustments to this packet and then put up a brand new one that will be going into effect fall 2013 so that students that are finishing out will have the correct sequence as well as students starting this fall.

Dr. Carlson would like a more definite (obvious) link, possibly in a couple different places, to the SLIP program from the SPC home page.

Judge Boyer asked for confirmation that the website is designed for people who are interested in the program so they could learn more about it. Dr. Oakley confirmed this and said that the SLIP packet is separate. On the website, students can look at degrees, the classes, the faculty, careers, and then the ASL teachers association and information for RID. If something is lacking or something needs to be added, please let us know.

Dr. Carlson wondered if website “hits” could be tracked. Judge Boyer would like to see this, too.

Dr. Oakley stated that because ASL is housed inside the Communications Department, it may, in fact, be harder to find because it is the only AS degree and all the other degrees are AA’s.

Mike Henry will update the sequence charts for studies that begin in the fall or spring or summer and how the sequence would change. Mike said the sequence shows if a student were to start in the fall, spring or summer how the sequence would change because students misunderstand that the first year, most of the classes are offered most every semester and then they assume that going into the advanced year that most classes are offered every semester, but they’re not. We start with a new cohort every spring and that is a three semester sequence that you have to do everything in each semester to advance to the next semester.

DEAFTEC GRANT REVIEW (Beth Carlson)

DeafTEC is an NSF grant secured by National Technical Institute for the Deaf and Rochester Institute for Technology, a super site for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education) and a resource center for increasing the population of deaf individuals in STEM fields. SPC has had a relationship with NTID over the years through PEPNet, English Language Teaching Outreach Project and various educational consortiums, so SPC and partnering institutions in California and Texas have joined together in this large outreach project. Matt Bowen is the project manager and Dr. Carlson is senior personnel for SPC.

DeafTEC is a four year, \$4.5 million grant. Although the grant goals are multifaceted, there are two major aspects of the grant, Project Access, designed to assist college faculty who are working with deaf students, and Working Together, designed to work with businesses that employ deaf individuals in STEM careers. Additional training includes Writing in the Disciplines and Developmental Math. Dr. Carlson will be at RIT for a week this summer with Christine Smith, Academic Chair in Business Technologies, attending the Writing in the Disciplines workshop. There will be a Project Access workshop at “Narrowing the Gulf” coming soon and Carol and Beth will be presenting to faculty at SPC and neighboring institutions, describing the grant, showing the aspects of the materials, and the training modules; specifically, Narrowing the Gulf, which will consist of the Project Access workshop, designed for working with deaf college students. Next week, Carol Downing and Dr. Carlson have a one-hour presentation at ConMed Linvatec Corporation, in Largo. Linvatec is one of our business partners. On July 12th and August 30th, there are two industry outreach training sessions at the EPI Center.

DeafTEC has been going very well as we enter the second year. Please contact Dr. Carlson or Carol Downing with questions, or if you know of deaf people working in STEM related fields. The DeafTEC grant and Working Together workshops can help companies learn how to fully integrate deaf individuals in the workplace. Carol Downing will now be working with Dr. Carlson and helping with training and some of the recruiting of businesses. Please e-mail Dr. Carlson with any questions at Carlson.Beth@spcollege.edu. Please see the SPC DeafTEC website, www.spcollege.edu/deaftec/, where there are extensive educational and employer resources. Dr. Carlson suggested that the CLASS ACT website, www.deaftec.org/classact, might be a valuable website for Mary Ann Ziegler to share with Pinellas County teachers.

Dr. Campbell quickly reviewed STEM Careers and success stories from students. This can be accessed by searching for DeafTEC or going through our page. Perhaps a link could be added to our page for DeafTEC.

Dr. Carlson said she is hopeful that with some of the industry partners that have deaf people out there that maybe we could track some of our intern students with the mentoring.

Marika asked about types of jobs that we would be placing our interns in. Dr. Carlson will get more info and get back to Marika and Dustin.

INTERNSHIPS

Dr. Campbell introduced Dustin Smith and Judge Boyer. Judge Boyer has offered for many years to take some of our interns to the Courthouse and give them the opportunity to observe some legal interpreting. As you saw in the minutes, we are trying to find, not only through the DeafTEC grant but also through our own Advisory Board, a variety of internship opportunities. We do have 21 students currently in the program (this is five times the number of students when Dr. Campbell came 5 years ago), and we want to make sure those students do very well as we send them out. We hope to keep the number high (double digits) in the program and we are going to try to identify the internship opportunities as early as possible so we don't end up with internships as we have in the past where they were upon us and we were trying to find, after the fact, internship placements. We want to make sure to get ahead of that and have those plans out in front of us. We will continue with Pinellas County Schools to have many internship opportunities and we thank PCS for those and your support of that.

Dr. Campbell asked if anyone at the meeting knew of any other internship opportunities that might be available to our students. Crystal mentioned SPC as a given of course and also mentioned that Antoinette Harrell, a staff interpreter, is the liaison between SLIP and the Sign Language Interpreter's Office.

Crystal said SPC has requirements (the packet that has to be completed) and all the interpreters review it and meet and vote. Then we select one or two, as two is pretty intense since there are really only 4 active staff interpreters, but it's such a fantastic place to intern – also PCSB, Safety Harbor Library and SPC which is where Crystal interned. Dr. Campbell said the more opportunities, clearly the better. While the internships are unpaid, the exposure is the goal.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Campbell discussed the need for new ASL faculty. One way Dr. Campbell argues for full-time faculty is by looking at the number of sections that are taught by part-time faculty, and if you look at the number of ASL sections offered college-wide in any given semester it's almost as many as we offer Spanish sections, but we have four full-time Spanish faculty. We have increasing demands for ASL classes and we just can't find enough faculty to offer as many courses as the market demands.

Dr. Carlson and Mike Henry said it would be nice to find someone dual credentialed to teach interpreting as well. Dr. Campbell is in agreement.

QUESTIONS

Crystal wonders if in the future ASL I and II numbers will decrease due to additional foreign language offerings. Mary Ann said that it did happen in the public schools. Crystal then wonders, would the interpreting students stay the same or increase? Dr. Campbell said she could offer twice as many ASL classes and make them if she just had faculty to teach them. She could offer twice the online Spanish and French classes, too. The demand is there, but she doesn't believe offering additional languages would adversely change ASL enrollment. But, there are no plans to do this immediately because of lack of budget.

Mary Ann Ziegler said that ASL is so popular that enrollment in other languages is down. She believes ASL will remain popular.

Dr. Campbell asked whether there were any other items for discussion.

Krista Fusari introduced herself and said she has taken over for Gary Graham. Krista asked if we had decided for our upcoming fall meeting (Joint Advisory Board Meeting) if we wanted breakfast, lunch or dinner. Dr. Campbell said dinner is easiest as it is at end of day. The dinner will be Thursday, September 12 at 6:00 pm. Krista said we would need to decide if we wanted to hold our meeting before or after the dinner. A majority decision was made to meet before the dinner at 4:30 pm.

KC Pearson wanted to know about what is going on in the classrooms and if there has been a "voices off" increase in the classroom. Dr. Campbell said we are still asking for that, but there is an academic freedom issue involved, but we are still asking and asking for that. Mike Henry said that the changes in the new curriculum encourage more voices off.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:44 pm.