

Sign Language Advisory Board Meeting  
Tuesday, September 9, 2014  
EPI Center, EP-ET 2-307  
4:30 pm

**MEMBER ATTENDEES:** The Honorable Bruce Boyer, Vicky Fales

**SPC ATTENDEES:** Dr. Martha Campbell, Dr. Beth Carlson, Carol Downing, Julie Gomez, Sam Harris, Mike Henry, Dr. Shirley Oakley, Marika Robinson, Michele Smith

**INTERPRETERS:** Beth Barnes, Justine Jones

---

Dr. Oakley called the meeting to order at 4:45 pm.

## **I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Introductions were made while waiting for additional attendees.

### Minutes from Last Meeting

Minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes by Judge Boyer; seconded by Vicky Fales. All in favor, no one opposed. Minutes approved.

### ASL I & ASL II Course Issues

Michele Smith is concerned about the foundations of ASL I and II. Often she has to cover in her ASL II course what was not covered previously in ASL I in others' courses. It takes time to review because students are not familiar with the *Signing Naturally* text. Michele would like to work together as a team with other instructors who may need to learn more about the textbook. Also, ASL I to ASL II requires review and teaching exercises that may be missing, but must be taught. Students are often overwhelmed. She has been teaching at SPC for three years and there has been no teamwork on the text.

Dr. Campbell thanked Michele for her comments and suggested that sometimes students drop out between semesters (i.e. ENC 1101 and ENC 1102) – they come back and it has been a long time between semesters. We had a common syllabus for Comp I and Comp II, but we might want some consistency [in ASL courses] for the review that takes place the first week.

Dr. Oakley asked what Michele saw as a solution. Ms. Smith said, "Work together as a team on ASL grammar questions and emotions on facial expressions."

Sam Harris indicated that he understands Michele's concerns. He is teaching ASL I, II and III. He sees a variety of skills in ASL II and III and some students should really be starting over in ASL I. One solution is [for instructors to] review the analysis and the syllabus and how they will examine or screen for the expressive.

Dr. Campbell suggested having a blog for faculty where they could post resources that were found. Dr. Carlson said resources are in the Sign Language repository.

Michele would like for the author to visit the college and have an instructor workshop. Sam thinks that is a great idea and Dr. Campbell said she has budgetary resources through lab fees where we can offer an honorarium to the trainer rather than charging each person who attends. Dr. Campbell stated the need for training and support. We are trying to establish more classes because ASL is now the fastest growing foreign language. We are continuing to add adjunct faculty and that is often a challenge to get everyone on the same page.

Sam thinks ASL mentorships, especially ASL I are an excellent idea.

Dr. Campbell said that ASL I does not have any pre-reqs and that is why students have varied skill levels.

Dr. Oakley said we have talked about screening. Sam asked to clarify if we actually have a screening test. Marika said we called it the Confirmation Test. We did a screening for the variety of the level of classes-never formal more informal.

Dr. Campbell said we need to consider common finals with specific questions that would appear on all finals.

### SLIP Website

Recent additions to the website are Sam's video and FAQ's. Please let Dr. Oakley know if you would like to add something to the website. Barbara Wolter and the website content team do a very good job helping us.

## **II. BUSINESS**

### ASL Lab Move

The ASL lab has moved across the hall from LA 108 to LA 107. Marika did a lot of that work. Carol Downing and Scott Lewis were a great help too. Marika said the lab is better there, and it took a little doing, but it's done! Marika said we do need two more computers.

### SLS students

We implemented a new tutoring course for the students that need two credits - twice a week, four hours each week. It provides the missing credits needed for financial aid. It is working, has been great and very helpful. Anja Norman helped set this up.

### Department of Education Framework

About two weeks ago, Dr. Campbell heard from Alicia Alexander, new in the State Department of Education Office. Alicia reviews the workforce programs and she works with the directors to make sure that they are within a standard link and use the appropriate SOC code (SPC is 27-3091). Any college in the State that offers a Sign Language Interpreting AS degree will be under that SOC code; it goes into student performance standards. We have a committee looking at these standards and many we found were very outdated in terms of language objectives and what we know about pedagogy in sign language/Deaf studies. Dr. Campbell assured Alicia that we would be working on the revision of the various items in the framework and submitting them to the State.

There are other institutions involved: HCC, Miami Dade, and Jacksonville. The idea is that all institutions will work together to achieve consensus.

Dr. Campbell asked Dr. Carlson to give one example of something that was particularly outdated. Dr. Carlson said that 3.01 still used the term “hearing impaired” and that is long gone. It was so outdated (probably about 30 years). It was hard to take it up 30 years in the future, but the whole thing really needed so much work. Dr. Oakley said to keep in mind that the committee was charged with either deleting what was there or revising it.

In a conference call with Miami Dade, HCC and Jacksonville, Dr. Oakley said that they wanted to talk about the QA more than the framework. Miami Dade was very concerned about students going out into the community and working as interpreters. The Dean at HCC said that their enrollment has gone down. Lori Cimino (Jacksonville) was also worried about enrollment. They were going to redo their program for a higher level so their students can transfer to USF and UNF. We are considering an articulation with UNF.

Alicia Alexander sent an email that explained what she would do once the revisions are presented. The revisions are combined and will be sent back out to the Colleges for approval.

### QA Concerns

Carol Downing said that the QA was a State level test that we used to be able to give our students upon graduating with an AS degree. The QA has been eliminated by RID and is no longer offered in the State of Florida. So, our students graduate with an AS and no opportunity to continue their professional credentialing unless they go to a Bachelor’s program. The impact on our Interpreting Program has been reduced INT enrollment.

Dr. Campbell said our articulation agreement with USF is on its way to their Dean of Undergraduate Education. Essentially the University is making an agreement with SPC. Sam said it definitely impacts SPC with only having an AS degree. Perhaps there is a possibility to do a Bachelor’s program so we would have more students stay and more numbers coming in if we had a more structured Bachelor’s program. Dr. Oakley said that issue came up in the conference call. Where do these students go after their AS degree? As we all know, Florida put a moratorium on Bachelor’s programs for now. It is, however, definitely something to look to for the future.

### DeafTEC Grant

Dr. Carlson stated that we are in year four of the four year grant, and we still have quite a few goals to achieve. We are hoping that the inroads we’ve set in years one, two and three will allow us to bridge into the businesses, community and colleges. It is very slow getting out there with workshops to offer. Dr. Oakley and Dr. Carlson are going to do two workshops, (one is “Writing in the Disciplines”), for All College Day and Carol may join, but we still need to get out to other colleges. The Grant is in process of going into the next cycle (another four years) and we worked on the budget the last two weeks, and it is trimmed down quite a bit, but the theory is that if we’ve already made the contacts, we continue to spread beyond that point. We do have a new partner in Chicago, Harper College (the very first community college), and we still have Ohlone, Austin Community College, Texas School for the Deaf and Florida School for the Deaf.

Rosa Rodriguez and Dr. Carlson traveled to Texas for the 3-day STEAM UP camp and had 35 high school students from the Texas School of the Deaf. They worked with Fred Beam and gave workshops on STEM. Then, they started thinking about doing this at SPC. They had 32 students and they had an incredible week. Students went to Raytheon, and ConMed Linvatec gave tours. It was an incredible success and the students said they loved it. When they were asked where they wanted to go to college, almost all of them said SPC!

## Internships

Carol Downing said we have 10 interns placed throughout Pinellas and Hillsborough counties. We did not have to go to Sarasota or Pasco this year. We have one in Pinellas County Schools and two at Paul B. Stephens (Deaf with additional disabilities) and the student interns placed at Paul B. requested to go there and they will also be involved with Special Olympics. Outside of Pinellas County, Morgan Fitzgerald took one of the interns.

## AHEAD Conference

Dr. Oakley, Carol Downing and Dr. Carlson attended the AHEAD Conference in Sacramento. Dr. Oakley said it was interesting because of the topics of disabilities and sign language and Deaf culture. SPC's INT adjunct, Anthony Verdeja, coordinated the interpreting services for the conference.

## **III. NEW BUSINESS**

### New Board Members Needed

There are only two board members here tonight. If we look through the minutes, Judge Boyer recommended that if board members were not participating that they be replaced. Dr. Oakley did email the four members that had not responded. Sammie Elser sends regrets and she has been ill, but she should stay on the Board. Dr. Oakley asked for any recommendations for board members. Perhaps Chris Wagner could make a recommendation -- possibly Julian? We need to get Pinellas County Schools back in too because Mary Ann Ziegler has retired. Cross Bayou would be another idea. Cindy Hebbeler from the Family Center on Deafness (suggested by Carol Downing/Dr. Carlson) is another possibility. A Pinellas County Schools interpreter would be a great idea. ConMed Linvatec or Raytheon members would be ideal. We need names by November 1.

Sam asked about reimbursement for travel for board members that might live quite a distance away. Dr. Campbell said she had no objections to that. She wanted to double-check the budget. Carol said if we wanted to aim for the president of FSDB, we might want to get Chris Wagner involved because he is on their board.

Mike Henry suggested that maybe someone from Flagler College's Deaf Ed Teacher Training Program would be a good idea.

GOAL: Aim for six new members.

Are teleconferencing capabilities possible? This could possibly be done in AD 106 (Clearwater Campus).

### Certificate in Deaf Studies

Dr. Oakley said that this might be something to look at because when students are finishing ASL, Structure, and Deaf Culture, they don't always want to go into the Interpreting Program and because students at this point can't be interpreters with an AS degree. A certificate program might be beneficial to them and to SPC.

An ASL Certification might not be the best title. Sam suggested Deaf Studies as an alternate title. Many employers are not familiar with ASL and they might think that an ASL Certificate means that they could be an interpreter. Deaf Studies would mean a student understands Deaf Culture and knows what works within the Deaf community.

Sam said maybe two or three listings for the Deaf Studies Certificate could be added: advocacy, education, etc. Dr. Campbell said we would need to see what is in the common State numbering system for courses at the two-year level. There probably are some courses like that, but we'll need to see what they are.

Last year, Dr. Campbell and Dr. Oakley met with Margaret Bowman from Curriculum. She told them there is no framework for a certificate in Sign Language in the State of Florida and SPC would have to develop one, but first we needed approval. We now have the approval of Dr. Anne Cooper and we can move forward with it. Dr. Campbell said it would have to be in by September 30 which is the curriculum deadline for next year for a certificate.

It might be beneficial for students to go out into the workforce with a certification after 23 credit hours of ASL. Dr. Campbell reminded everyone that certificate programs do not require General Ed courses.

Dr. Campbell is working on a semester-by-semester plan including all of the Gen Eds (not just our flow chart), but all the Gen Eds, so students see what they need to take the first semester, second semester, third semester, etc. She has it worked out for full-time students but is having a tougher time with part-time students (especially a student who is not college ready) – then it is even more challenging. The first draft is good for the AS and the 72 hours and she will send it out for review.

Summers can be rough. If students express interest in ASL I, we want to be able to put a program plan in their hands so they will know exactly what courses they will need to take for the AS degree and exactly how long it will take them to complete the program.

Carol asked what percentage of SPC is comprised of part-time students. Dr. Campbell said college-wide it was a large number.

### Recruitment

Sam would like to discuss the curriculum that needs updating. Carol Downing and Dr. Carlson discussed meeting again and Dr. Oakley agreed.

Dr. Campbell said we do have to fit our program to make sure USF takes our courses (they do not take all, but most). Sam asked if we should then go ahead and start with the development. Dr. Campbell said there are two curriculum windows each year; September and January. The current dates are September 30, 2014, for fall 2015, and January 30, 2015, for changes effective spring 2016. Dr. Campbell thinks we need another trip to USF to meet with them so we can see the articulation agreement and talk with Andrea Smith about some ideas we have.

No additional new business.

Meeting adjourned 5:54 pm.

Next meeting at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, March 18, 2015, at the Oriental Super Buffet, 2456 Gulf to Bay Boulevard, Clearwater.

*Submitted by: Debra Higgins*