

Sign Language Advisory Board Meeting
Thursday, March 30th 2017
Clearwater Campus
ES 104 4:30pm

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Carlson at 4:45 pm.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- *Board Members Present:* Jose Gutierrez, Rosa Rodriguez, Vicky Fales, Daniel LeMay
- *Board Members Absent:* Sammie Elser, Chris Wagner

- *SPC Attendees::* Dr. Beth Carlson, Carol Downing, Sam Harris, Marika Robinson, Mike Henry, Joe Benavides, Travis Soto, Dean Leopold, Dr. Martha Campbell, Sam Harris

- Interpreters- Val and Holly

II. MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Read

Motion to approve by: Jose Gutierrez

Seconded by: Rosa Rodriguez

III. OLD BUSINESS

Completion of Comprehensive Academic Program Review (CAPR) 2015/2016

The results of CAPR were discussed. Dean Leopold explained the CAPR process and expressed the importance of addressing program goals and outcomes for next year as well as future plans.

Dr. Campbell summarized the primary goals of the AS program and suggested alignment SLIP and ASL programs for transfer for those students who do not have a BA/BS degree. Dr. Campbell offered suggestions for program options for students wanting to go from an AS to a BS in the interpreting program. Dean Leopold explains the FUSE program through USF.

Dr. Carlson reiterated that a new articulation agreement with USF's needs to occur. She was in contact with the director, Andrea Smith, several months ago and there is an expected change in course numbers that will occur in fall 2017. Andrea Smith

would like to meet with SPC before the fall to confirm SPC classes match USF sequencing and curricular criteria.

Dr. Campbell deferred the discussion to Dean Leopold who pointed that Hillsborough Community College, HCC, had closed their Interpreter Training Program. Dean Leopold also stated that it was important to understand for the college culture right now, as the presidential transition is co-occurring with a reduction in enrollment and an additional forecast of decline over the next 3-4 semesters. Dr. Carlson and Dean Leopold further discuss some reasons for the decline and the fact that enrollment in of students in American Sign Language classes is quite robust.

Daniel LaMay asked if there was an agreement with the University of North Florida, UNF, like the University of South Florida, USF, or is one in the being developed. Dr. Carlson noted that UNF has worked well with our transfer students; however, Carol Downing and Dr. Campbell noted that SPC does not have a formal written articulation agreement with UNF. Carol Downing discussed UNF's program and noted that she has recently finished a mentoring session with a former student of SPC that attends UNF's program. Dean Leopold asked if possible to get a count of SPC students attending UNF.

Dr. Carlson asked if everyone needed more time to look over the CAPR. Dr. Campbell and Dean Leopold started to discuss the coding but decided to table the discussion for a later date. Dean Leopold and Dr. Carlson expressed the importance of the program review.

Grade Distributions

Dr. Carlson asked Dr. Campbell to discuss the enrollment and passing rate. Currently the SLIP passing rate is at 85% and has been consistent for years. The overall passing rate for SPC students is 74%. Dean Leopold explained the college wide decreased enrollment is a general down trend and is not due to specific programs.

Jose Gutierrez asked for clarification on what is currently being used to measure the performance of the students since the suspension of the Quality Assurance screening. Dr. Campbell asked Carol Downing to further discussion under new business. Dr. Carlson, Dean Leopold and Dr. Campbell discussed the fluctuation in enrollment over their years. Further discussion continued about the enrollments.

Rosa Rodriguez moves to finish old business of program review.
Jose seconds the motion

IV. New Business

The floor is open for discussion

Online ASL piloting

Sam Harris joins the meeting during his class break and expressed his thoughts about the program and the continuous growth. He suggested starting an online class and asks for comments. Jose Gutierrez asked if there was research from other colleges who offer online classes and suggested that SPC collaborate with them. Sam Harris responded stating other colleges have online courses and that he has taught online classes before. Sam Harris stated that he has the technology resources as well as the technological skills. Jose Gutierrez mentioned the need to consider not only online courses for our students but nationwide. Dr. Carlson mentioned that the requirements for online teaching need to be met before Sam or others could teach. Discussion continued about the Quality Matters, QM, training.

Vicki Fales asked for a written proposal listing the short and long term goals for online learning. Dr. Campbell informed the board of the requirements for piloting an online course at SPC.

Dean Leopold adds that other online foreign language courses; Spanish and French have been developed through Quality Matters and the courses have been extremely popular. Dr. Campbell asked if there was ASL software for the course or if Sam planned to develop it. She was concerned about the time frame for developing a course and implementing the course by fall. Rosa asked if anyone has the QM training. Dr. Carlson responded that no one has completed the training in the SLIP program. Marika Robinson asked how Sam Harris planned to develop a program in such a short time. She was under the impression it takes years to develop an online ASL course. Dean Leopold suggested that Sam Harris contact the online services office to confirm if this idea is possible by fall. Mike Henry and Dean Leopold further discussed the importance of QM training. Dean Leopold informed the board that in the state of Florida there is a requirement for student to have completed an online course before entering college. Dr. Campbell, Dr. Carlson, and Mike Henry further discussed the specific requirements of teaching a course through QM.
Finish business with online classes

Graduate Testimonials

Dr. Carlson introduced Travis Soto for the Graduate Testimonials
Travis Soto graduated in the fall of 2016 and is currently in the USF interpreting program. Travis Soto discussed the aspects of the SPC program that he liked, for instance, the interaction with the instructors, the smaller class sizes and the personal feedback. Travis Soto, Dr. Carlson and Carol Downing discussed the recent trip to Gallaudet University. Graduating students attended a three day Shakespeare Festival on the Gallaudet campus. All of the students were treated to interviews with working interpreters, hands on training, a campus tour and workshops. Travis added that with his intern experience at SPC he was able to gather a network of resources.

Dr. Carlson showed the video that was created by Shelbi Gage and served as a thank you to the Student Government for supporting the students for their Gallaudet trip

Website additions/change

After Dr. Carlson and Dean Leopold navigated through the website for the group, there was general agreement that the website was confusing to all. Discussion continued about the struggle people are having with the website. Dean Leopold explained how and why the website was designed as it was. The idea was to have 10 learning communities, or what SPC calls, "career and academic communities". Dean Leopold stated that the students needed to be savvy and persistent to navigate through the website. Dr. Carlson asked if ASL/SLIP could get moved out from under Communications website because the program is difficult to find and students are contacting several other departments, who fortunately have been redirecting to us. Dr. Campbell informed Dr. Carlson that she had tried to have ASL/SLIP moved many times to no avail. Further discussion on the website and the lack of ease maneuvering continued through many pages before the committee was able to locate the ASL/SLIP program. Carol Downing asked how to get the website changed. Dean Leopold suggested sending an email with everyone's collective thoughts to him and he would forward the information to "Sabino" and copy everyone.

FLDOE Statewide Program Updates in Progress

Recently, Carol Downing and Dr. Carlson meet through online conferencing with the lead faculty at Miami Dade College and Jacksonville State College for a coordinated effort to revise the state wide curriculum for Sign Language Interpreting Program for the Florida Department of Education. Both colleges indicated there were similar concerns relative to struggling with the removal of the QA, smaller cohorts, trying to verify graduates, and attempts to streamline the program. Both colleges noted the increase in the amount of students with bachelors returning to school for the interpreting programs. Carol Downing reiterated that all interpreting programs in the state of Florida are facing the same struggles. Dr. Carlson pointed out that many colleagues were not in favor of changing the Associate in Science program to an Associate in Arts. Mike Henry voiced his concern about the only viewing the SLIP program as a statistic rather than actually acknowledging the quality of the program. Dean Leopold agreed that it will be difficult moving forward and discussion needs to continue about what the SLIP program will look like.

Relative to the total credit hours, Dean Leopold discussed the differences between the SLIP program as an AS and an AA transfer plan. Rosa Rodrigues, Mike Henry and Dean Leopold discussed a growing need for Deaf Ed certified teachers and the lack of programs locally. Jose Gutierrez noted some potential with the idea of converting the current program into a secondary AA and tying it with a bachelor's degree from the college of education. Dean Leopold added that a concentration in community services would add to the program. Dr. Carlson voiced a strong concern and asked whether the integrity curriculum in SLIP program would remain. Dean Leopold did

not know the answer. Jose Gutierrez discussed the benefits of earning an A.S. degree and the board continued with discussion about the differences between an A.S. and an A.A. degree. Daniel LeMay asked if the SLIP program had ever considered changing the focus of the program to educational interpreting. Dean Leopold explained that one concept could be to create an interpreting track in the College of Education. Carol Downing, Travis Soto, Daniel LeMay, and Dr. Carlson all voiced concern about cutting hours from the program. Dean Leopold agreed and suggested that one idea was to roll SLIP into a B.A. through the College of Education. Discussion continued between Carol Downing, Dean Leopold, Dr. Carlson, Dr. Campbell and Daniel LeMay about how the program would work and what it would look like. Daniel LeMay and Carol Downing agreed that adding an educational emphasis would be fine as long as the SLIP program continued to graduate skilled interpreters.

Update on NIC testing

Carol Downing gave an update on NIC testing. Three students have been approved to take their NIC testing paid and this was made possible by funding from SPC. Jose Gutierrez recommended partnering with other programs to produce interpreters in additional fields such as nursing, physical therapy, and respiratory care. Vicki Fales asked if a system has been established to track the students after they take the written portion of NIC. Dean Leopold, Carol Downing and Dr. Carlson responded that an effort will be in place to do that. The fall 2016 cohort is the first graduating class approved to take the NIC test on SPC funds.

Helen and Mildred Goldman Scholarships Available

Rosa Rodrigues explained how the Helen and Mildred Goldman scholarships came about. And discussed that two student scholarships are available in the summer term. Dr. Carlson and Carol Downing explained why the scholarship is only available in the summer which has traditionally been due to the spring award ceremony. Discussions occurred about moving the ceremony to the fall semester of graduation and including a reception for the students.

Discussion for the 50-year celebration of Deaf Program/SLIP

The suggestion was made that we contact the hospitality or alumni association to fund a 50 year celebration. Vicki Fales told Carol Downing, who has agreed to spearhead the event, the VRS company, Purple, would be happy to contribute towards the event. The plan is to have the 50-year celebration in September during Deaf awareness month.

Dr. Carlson asked for any new business:

Marika Robinson told the board about the ASL lab on the St. Pete Gibbs campus and how well it is going. Mike Henry confirmed that the Gibbs ASL classes are growing and improving.

V. Plan Next Meeting

The board will meet in September at the Epi Center. Dean Leopold will email the date and time after the semester ends.

VI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm