



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Friday, May 29, 2015 * 11:30 am—1:30 pm

Oliva Child & Family Center

Members Present: Karen Peterson, Committee Vice Chair, WSU-Vancouver; Andrew Garland-Forshee, Portland Community College; Darcy Taylor, Department of Early Learning; Jacquelyn Keith, Vancouver Library; Kristi Baker, SWCCC/ESD 112; Allison McLaughlin; Vancouver School District

Members Absent: Debra Shope, Committee Chair, SW Washington Assoc. for Ed. of Young Children; Chrissy Free, Vancouver School District; Dominic Paz, PCC

Clark College: Debi Jenkins, ECE Dept. Head; Laurie Cornelius, Director, Child & Family Services; Sarah Theberge, ECE Curriculum Lead/Faculty in ECE & Family Life; Michelle Mallory, Family Life Coordinator & Faculty; Lora Whitfield, ECE Instructor; Miles Jackson, Dean, Social Science & Fine Arts; Cathy Sherick, Associate Dir. Of Instructional Planning & Innovation; Andrea DiGiorgio, Secretary Sr., Advisory Committees

Guests: Michelle Aguilar, Early Achievers ESD 112; Kahlea Croft, YMCA of Columbia-Willamette

The meeting was called to order at 11:36 a.m. by Committee vice Chair, Karen Peterson and introductions were made.

The February 6, 2015 minutes were approved as written by unanimous vote.

Office of Instruction Updates

O.O.I. Associate Director Cathy Sherick made some announcements.

- **Advisory Breakfast March 18th** Speaker, Scott Bailey, Economist and Clark Faculty spoke about the regional economic outlook. Looking forward to Advisory Members joining us for the 2016 Advisory recognition event, during spring term. Cathy asked what people thought of the event, and if they might share any specific recommendations for next year? Overall this committee liked the event.
- **Upcoming Advisory Training** for advisory chairs and vice chairs on the Advisory Committees' responsibilities, processes and schedules. Slated for the week of September 14th, 2015, it will be on the Clark main campus. The inter-active event will be from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. and will include dinner. Are there any items that committee members would like to see included in the training?
- **Advisory web page** will be the primary location for all information regarding the committees. Office of Instruction will be posting articles of interest, economic studies and other information. Members are encouraged to send links and information of interest to post on the site too.
- **Clark College Strategic Plan 2015-2020** was adopted in March of 2015. The organizational management process was used to set priorities, focus energy and resources, strengthen operations and ensure that stakeholders are working toward common goals. The plan will be the over-arching document linking academic, enrollment, retention and other future plans for the college. Please visit the main Clark College web site to read the plan.
- **Clark College Academic Plan is in the works!** The academic plan process is under way at Clark with faculty and staff gathering ideas and building consensus. Under construction over the coming months it is anticipated to be adopted in the fall of 2015.

Division Chair Report

Laurie Cornelius announced that she is retiring in October 2015 after 35 years at Clark College. She said it was a difficult decision to make but she will be happy traveling, spending more time with her grandkids, and her passion for painting and gardening. She plans to come back into the field but not sure yet in what capacity. Andrew thanked Laurie for her service and all the hard work she's done at Clark College and for the early education community.

School System update. Laurie attended a meeting with representatives from OSPI, 2-year and 4-year colleges and universities. There is a 7,000 teacher shortage in P through 3 and they are looking at all the different ways to create pathways to get people with BA degrees into these ECAP positions and the system. There's a bit of a conflict though because the ECAP and K teachers should be paid equally. There needs to be a retooling of the endorsement.

The Early Achievers scholarship is ending in December 2015. Laurie thanked the advisors, including Michelle and Sarah, who worked so hard on helping students to find other or additional financial resources. There are funding pathways for lower income students but not for the more middle income range. There was some advocacy to find a way to fund scholarships for this group and there is a need to increase funding pathways for the Bachelor degree.

Miles Jackson reported on the budget. He said there has been a consistent enrollment decline over the past few years and more and more of the Clark operating budget is linked to tuition revenue. There is a \$3M budget shortfall for next year. A plan is being worked on to bridge that gap and programs will likely be cut. There will be a possible 5% cut across the board. In the past, we have just made cuts across the board however, this would not be effective for a cut of this magnitude. It's likely a small number of programs will be reduced or cut altogether. This summer discussions will take place and the target is contingent upon the legislature, who have not let us know our budget allocation. Both Career and Technical Education (CTE) and transfer programs will be affected. Questions were raised by the committee about ECE program. Miles said it's not likely but not out of the question. A proposal will be shared with the college community in September.

Old Business

Increase male students to the ECE program. Karen turned the floor over to Andrew for an update on the subcommittee to increase males in the program and industry. He had some handouts for the members to generate some thoughts about why talk about this? What are the next steps? He outlined the goals of the subcommittee and said to refer to the handout for specific information. Some of the goals included program information, outreach strategies, strategies for curricula that actively target men, and how accessible is the program? He said his coming into the industry was based on discovery, it wasn't his original destination. He said he is the first and only male full time faculty in Portland Community College's ECE program. He said there are men in the field but none actively in the academic program so the goal is that we increase males in the program. He said last year PCC was charged with this as well and added that the Federal Government is looking at non-traditional occupations for men, including early childhood education, human services, and family studies. They have not graduated a male in their program in more than 20 years. This is the conversation starter.

Andrew asked what the goal of the subcommittee is. Is it marketing materials? He passed out some of PCC's ECE marketing pamphlets. Can we outreach to high schools? Debi said there is a component that deals with societal image of males in early childhood education. There are stereotypical perceptions and because of the idea that male are considered the "providers", and men are steered away because they are told that the pay is not a livable wage. This is a part of the systemic reality that impacts the thinking. Karen asked if we can get some numbers on where we're at in this program with regard to males. Debi will get the numbers for next meeting. She said she currently has five men in ECE 100 who are interested in the program. Sarah remarked that historically women have been the ones trying to get men involved. And asked if there are any male advocates the field that can provide information and also provide the translational language to the men. How about advisors at the college? Back to discussing the subcommittee. What can they work on? Andrew thought that creating a strategic plan for the subcommittee would be a good idea. He would like numbers first and asked how

many men are in the program. Of the advisory committee members he asked how many are employed in their industry? Of those men, what are their degrees? He would like to come back in the fall and talk about these numbers. Christy mentioned that a lot of employees in this industry came in as discovery, not intentional, as Andrew said. She would like to work with the sociology and human development educators to help with recruitment or at least get information about the program to students. Karen would like to see someone not in the industry on this subcommittee. Brianna Lisenbee of Career Services said that Clark Advisors steer undecided students to Career Services. She's thinking Patrick Willis from the Advising Department that would be a great asset. Andrew sees a bigger subcommittee and said he'd like to get the subcommittee together over the summer.

Next steps are:

- **Identify/expand subcommittee membership.** Christie, Michelle and Sarah, Career Services? Kevin in Financial Aid? Andrew will talk to Dominic Paz. There is also an ECE lab instructor, Paul.
- **Make a plan.** Ask questions. Are the courses too feminine? Most likely. There are many questions—need to ask and answer the questions first before making a plan.
- **Make a template in the fall.** Debi will check with the colleges that Clark articulates with and find out how they recruit men in their ECE programs.
- **Subcommittee to meet in summer.**

New Business

Sarah reminded the committee members that students are doing panel presentations in the Fireplace room in Gaiser Hall at 5 pm. There will be 22 presenters. Food will be served.

Next Meeting Date

Friday, October 16, 2015. Lunch will be 11:15—11:30 a.m.; the meeting will begin promptly at 11:30 a.m.

Karen adjourned the meeting at 1:29 p.m.

Prepared/submitted by **Andreana DiGiorgio**