

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Friday, October 29th, 2021 \* 9:00-10:30am**

**Zoom Online**

**Members Present:** Michelle Aguilar (Co Chair), ESD 112; Christyn Dundorf (Co Chair), Early Learning Consultant Group; Kahlea Croft, YMCA of Columbia Willamette; Jamie Heiberlein, PCC Faculty; Jane Lanigan, WSUV CDP; Jess Robertson, Alumni; Debra Shope, EOCF;

**Members Absent:** Kristi Baker, SWCCC/ESD 112; Rashelle Chase, KinderCare Education; Andrew Garland-Forshee, Portland Community College; Amelia Shelley, Fort Vancouver Regional Library District; John Swartz, Kiddie Academy

**Clark College**: Debi Jenkins, Department Chair; Sarah Theberge, ECE Professor; Don Ludwig, Sociology Professor; Michelle Volk, Director of CFS; Meghan Crozier, BASTE Faculty; Michelle Mallory, Family Life Coordinator; SueAnn McWatters, Program Specialist – Advisory Committees.

Co-Chair Michelle Aguilar called the committee to order at 9:06am and introductions were made.

**APPROVAL OF ZOOM RECORDING:**

SueAnn McWatters confirmed with the committee that they are aware of the recording of the meeting. The industry members and Clark staff gave approval for the recording.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

*The minutes of May 21st, 2021 were presented for approval. Khalea Croft motioned for approval, Michelle Aguilar seconded was unanimously approved.*

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The Committee will meet again on **Friday, May 20th, 2022 at 9:00am.**

**OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION ANNOUCEMENTS**

Michele Volk and Debi Jenkins made the following announcements:

The college is currently conducting searches for a new Vice President of Instruction and a new Vice President of Student Affairs. There have been in depth searches, interviews, and we are now just waiting on an announcement.

Debi Jenkins asked the committee to welcome in Meghan Crozier on her role with the BAS degree.

**STATUS OF BAS-TE**

Meghan Crozier made the following statements about the BAS degree:

*News & Updates*

* The BASTE proposal was submitted for approval by the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges for the October 2021 board meeting.
  + Sarah Theberge announced that it was approved
* New faculty member Meghan Crozier
* Awaiting PESB approval in January
* Next steps:
  + Hiring data certification manager
  + Recruitment after PESB approval
  + Launch program in Fall, 2022

*Partnering with School Districts*

* Faculty met with the school districts of Vancouver, Evergreen, Woodland, and Battle Ground to discuss future partnerships with residency teaching opportunities. We opened these discussions with the question of, **“What does the ideal teach candidate look like coming to you from a teacher preparation program?”** This question was fun and produced answers to pursue and led to two major overlapping ideas:
  + Districts want to “Grow Their Own Teachers” that have relationships and an understanding of the cultural context of the community the districts lie within.
  + Districts want teachers who can support a wide range of learning abilities and of whom are culturally competent, responsive, and preferably, with bilingual skills.
  + Districts want teachers who are more reflective of the demographics of the students and families who are served.

The college initially had the special education endorsement, however the community needs focused more on the bilingual endorsement. The plan is to offer it in the future.

Meghan also stated that they have added other partnerships with Ridgefield, Camas, and there are current talks with Washougal. She has also been looking at master’s pathways with WSU Vancouver and Portland State University.

*Funding Sources*

* Students who are working on their Applied Science (AAS) degree, and working at a licensed site, can access Early Achiever scholarship dollars. Our point contact here at Clark for that funding source is Terry Haye [Thaye@clark.edu](mailto:Thaye@clark.edu).
* Students who will be working on their BAS-TE degree can access Child Care Aware scholarship dollars. The contact person for that is Ivonne Pereira [Ivonne@childcareawarewa.org](mailto:Ivonne@childcareawarewa.org).

*Course Map*

Meghan presented the course map and what students will take. Students will take about 15 credits each quarter. The BAS TE program is designed for students who have completed a two-year degree with prerequisites. Sarah Theberge stated that the program is currently mapped out for full-time.

**BAS-TE QUESTIONS/ANSWERS**

*Questions?*

* We are thrilled to reach this next step in our process of providing an accessible and affordable degree program that leads to teacher certification and one that leads with racial equity, social justice, economic justice, and the opportunity to impact the achievement and opportunity gaps for non-dominant, systematically oppressed students both in our teacher candidate representations and the students and families they will serve.
* How can this program support or benefit your organization?
* Do you have ideas for us to move forward on your behalf as we prepare the program?
* We welcome the opportunity to answer questions about this exciting new program!

Kahlea Croft is very excited to see this program. She does hope that the program can eventually become a part time program as many of her staff work. They seem to be more interested in online due to practicality and work schedules. Meghan Crozier spoke on the program being hybrid, in-person and online. It will depend on the instructor.

Meghan Crozier explained that each quarter will include a progression of field experience. There will be different clinical experiences students will have that will grow into their residencies. It will grow from observation to smaller experiences to opportunities for reflection. Sarah also reiterated the importance of getting students actual field experiences early. It was an early revision in the proposal for curriculum and placements to occur more often and earlier.

Kahlea Croft asked what it looks like for those who are already currently in the field? Debi Jenkins explained that because this is a bachelor’s program, many of these teachers are preparing to be in the elementary school system. Most residencies will be taking place in elementary locations.

The committee spoke a bit on the terms of “residency” and “student teaching.” Sarah stated that the term comes from what other colleges are referring to, which has been “residency.” Jane Lanigan stated that the rationale for most programs have students going into the classrooms at different points in their program. “Residency” is meant to describe that this is the full-time vs “practicum” which is a shorter period that could be a part of many different courses. Debi Jenkins suggested adding the explanation to the syllabi, website, recruiting materials, etc.

Don Ludwig asked if this is intended to do this as a cohort model. He also asked if there will be a schedule for students to know when they are doing in person vs. online. Debi Jenkins agreed that this will be something to think about in the future.

Jess Robertson asked for clarification between the bachelor’s which seems to be for those interested in working in the school districts while the two-year degree is for early learning. Debi Jenkins explained that there has been a lot of thought and discussion about the community and targeting the specific needs economically. The committee discussed the transition between early child and elementary and the affects it has on those in the community.

Debi Jenkins gave kudos to Sarah Theberge and Michelle Mallory on their work in the programs. She especially thanked Sarah for her heart and work in really pushing for this program and work.

**PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT AND ASSESSMENT**

Sarah Theberge spoke on staffing as a huge concern and issue. The challenges of keeping the doors open and meeting the needs of childcare are super important. How do we bridge the gap with faculty so that they can be a part of the process?

**How can Clark be responsive to these changing needs, and to provide feedback and assessment on applied teaching practices?**

**What technologies are you currently using to support reflection and skill building in the classroom?**

Michelle Aguilar spoke on Coaching Companion and utilizing the software. It has been difficult as many programs have closed. Jamie Heberlein explained that if students are an ECE site employee, they can complete their practicum. Students are currently out completing their 9 hours a week for fall. Those programs that are allowed into the facility are being regularly observed. Others are allowed video using YouTube or a sharedrive. Instructors and students will have regular zoom session to discuss and assess the students in the videos.

Meeting adjourned at 10:26am.

Minutes prepared SueAnn McWatters