10/9/2013

Art teachers and staff present for the meeting 5pm-6:40pm (100 minutes):

1. Sherry Bennett
2. Marilyn Bechler
3. Stephanie Summers
4. Dr. Paula McNeil
5. Dr. Cindy Hasio
6. Michael Schmidt

* Sherry suggested to Paula to send an email to all the art teachers about meetings.
* Michael suggested we look for successful models and we don’t have art education students. The program may be in jeopardy. Michael Schmidt spoke about how to create a justification to have the art education program. There is a lot of paperwork. What can we do to look forward to in 2014 to get the enrollment numbers back up. Suggestions included making an alumni video, making brochures and recruiting in high school.
* Hasio talked about art education programs compared to other universities. Stephanie and Sherry gave their insights about special needs students inside the art classroom in public school.
* Stephanie suggested to have the students do as much practicum as they can.
* Sherry suggested that one of her student teachers was more prepared and comfortable to teach because of her practicum experiences since freshman year.
* Marilyn suggested going to a nursing home or retirement home for the students’ practicum for issue and trends.
* Stephanie suggested that student teachers be prepared at any level and Michael Schmidt and Paula McNeil combine classes where elementary and secondary are combined for a year. Schmidt suggested courses such as “Methods I” and “Methods II”.
* Paula suggested that the students come into the class before the college semester start “opening school experience,” and Stephanie suggested the student teachers come in when the beginning of the school year starts so that the students will know how the classroom is from the beginning. She thought that about having the students observe in the classroom instead of teaching a lesson and just working with the kids so that they build confidence.
* McNeil suggested that the students have one class where the students experience the elementary and secondary together in a practicum observation for one class and then the other class to be practicum teaching.
* Schmidt suggested that the art education program have a more collaborative relationship with the College of Education.
* Schmidt asked how many students are thinking about art education. Sherry told us that in the past she would bring her students to the campus so that they could see how VSU’s Art Department. The art teachers wanted to know how the VSU art faculty could come to their schools so they could recruit high school students. Schmidt said that we can send promotional materials to the schools such as posters, brochures, etc. for recruitment. He also suggested going to GAEA in the spring and sending an invite to all the high schools and bringing lots of promotional materials for the art department.

He also said that it would be a good idea to send a letter to each student that participates at GHP for thanking them for coming to the school, wish them they had a great opportunity, tagline the website and welcome them and their parents to visit the art department.

GHP is not mentioned on the VSU art department’s website.

* McNeil asked if the art education curriculum has to be changed. Schmidt said “no.” Stephanie suggested that our art education program can be enhanced with P.R. and is hoping that VSU can be at their schools more for recruitment. Sherry said that if the county will approve art teachers to go out to VSU they could come visit the campus more.
* McNeil asks: “What area should you think should be our primary focus?” Schmidt said “branding.” Stephanie said, “P.R.” Schmidt wants to grow the department with branding. Schmidt said that the other universities have more professional looking websites because of budgets and that VSU has faculty and staff in various departments put together website.