ECSE Advisory Council Meeting

(5/13/14)

Attendance: Dr. Don Leech, Dr. Festus Obiakor, Dr. Shirley Thompson, Dr. Lucia Lu, Dr. Jessica Graves, Carolyn Gish, Jamie Bird, Willie Edwards, Kaye Hunt, Sharon Dodds, Michael Smith

Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Central Focus: Review of department responses and follow ups for 2013-2014 suggestions/ topics of concern

- The need for our teacher candidates’ exposure to diverse learners is one of the Advisory Council goals pending for 2013-2014. The location of tutoring sessions was discussed from several different viewpoints as a way to increase teacher candidates’ experiences with learners from different backgrounds and cultures. Willie Edwards shared an opportunity at Lomax-Pinevale Elementary School that ECSE can possibly take part in called Homework Café. Homework Café is a collaborative program that is currently being formed to serve students as well as parents that wish to become more involved in the art of tutoring their children. Dr. Graves made the suggestion that the faculty members could also play a role in the collaborative effort with Lomax-Pinevale’s Homework Café Program by volunteering to coach students and parents with homework strategies. The tutoring opportunity will be a great environment for our ECSE teacher candidates. We discussed a timeline for this and hope to be able to make arrangements during fall 2014 for our practicum students to share in this endeavor while meeting some of the tutoring requirements.

- Dr. Lucia Lu mentioned the possibility of listing some of her ECED 2120 diversity students’ requirements at the Lomax-Pinevale location to help give experiences with students from diverse backgrounds. The council also mentioned sharing this opportunity with Dr. Doepker as an opportunity for students in literacy courses.

- As the council continued to discuss provisions for cultural diversity, Dr. Obiakor mentioned inviting Willie Edwards and Michael Smith to present on occasion during practicum seminar meetings. Dr. Obiakor stated that he will be available and glad to present on cultural diversity during seminar events.

- Michael Smith followed up via email with specific organizations in order to continue our efforts to meet the diversity need.

Southside Recreation Center
604 S Oak St, Valdosta, GA 31601
Rachel Bradley, Director
229-242-6764
ssrc@bellsouth.net
These local contacts will be shared with the ECSE faculty as a resource for opportunities.

- Suggestions have been made from several sources, including the COEHS Field Experience Committee, to have a mentor building representative on each partnering school’s campus. The building representatives will serve as facilitators for practicum and clinical practice information. The Office of Field Experience and Clinical Practice will assist in recruiting building representatives. Mr. Willie Edwards stated that he will be happy to serve as the representative for Lomax-Pinevale Elementary. We are proud to assign Mr. Edwards as the mentor building representative for LPE. He has been such an active member of our council and also currently holds the title of Teacher of the Year for his school. We all joined in to congratulate Mr. Edwards for the prestigious honor.

- An update on provisions for professional development was discussed. A partnering organization, PAGE, is in the process of increasing involvement with teacher education programs. There will be an increase in the PAGE partnership to prepare teacher candidates for the teaching profession. Dale Gillespie will be working closely with Jamie Bird and the professional development committee to relay vital information to prepare students for the profession. The focus of PAGE provisions will be towards job interview preparation, including resume writing.

- Discussion continued with the topic of the encumbered, stressful experience that students face during their adjustment to clinical practice. There is additional concern towards the upcoming edTPA portfolio requirements that will be assigned during clinical practice. The Advisory Council recommends that an effort be made to provide the clinical practice students with one to three personal days during the 15 week placement. This should be in addition to or in combination with the suggested release time that will take place for edTPA writing sessions.

Announcements: The Advisory Council will continue efforts during the 2014-2015 with current members who wish to carry out a two year membership. The council will reorganize at the beginning of the Fall 2014 semester.

In Closing: The suggestions that have been shared for improving our ECSE program will be itemized and posted on the ECSE website. There will be a department effort to address the suggestions for continual improvement of our teacher preparation effort.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.