



Department of Middle, Secondary, Reading, and Deaf Education

ASL/Interpreting and Deaf Education Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, March 13, 2014 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Minutes

Members Present: Jennifer Beal-Alvarez, Etta Faggioni, Evelyn Chivers, Cindy Horne, Ronnie Tyson-Jones, Melissa Artz, Philip Bishop, Taylor Patterson, Rencia Gravesand, Nanci Scheetz

Members Absent: Christia Williams, Dana Pass, Shirley Thompson

The Spring 2014 ASL/Interpreting and Deaf Education Advisory Board Meeting was held on Thursday, March 13, 2014 from 7:00 – 8:30 in Room 2147 in the Dewar College of Education. The meeting began with brief introductions and a Deaf Education Program update. Dr. Scheetz reported that the PSC had approved a new MED in Deaf Education.

The new MED, referred to as Track 2, will be offered beginning in the fall of 2014. It is designed for teachers holding a clear, renewable teaching certificate outside of the field of Deaf Education. Currently VSU offers a MED, as part of a 5-year program for students completing their BEd in Deaf Education at Valdosta State. However, the 5-year program has been limited to VSU's undergraduate students. The new Track 2 is entirely online and will open the degree for any teacher wishing to add a master's in Deaf Education. Advisory Board Members were provided with programs of study for the MAT, MED 5-year program and the MED – Track 2.

Dr. Jennifer Beal-Alvarez then provided members with an overview of the new edTPA requirement, what it entails and what is required of our students. She described the three part process: planning, teaching, and reflection and outlined what would be included in the required Learning Segment. She indicated that we will be using the edTPA components in the fall of 2014. Initially Learning Segments will be evaluated within the College of Education. Beginning in the fall of 2015 student Learning Segments will be externally evaluated.

Dr. Scheetz then provided an update on the SLPI requirements for our ASL/Interpreting and our Deaf Education majors. Beginning in the fall of 2014, students majoring in Deaf Education must pass the Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI) at an Intermediate Level before they will be allowed to enroll in courses requiring a field component (DEAF 5310, DEAF 5370, DEAF 5380, DEAF 6000, DEAF 6010, DEAF 6030, DEAF 6110). The goal of the program is to prepare teachers with ASL skills whereby they can communicate effectively with students who are deaf or hard of hearing (D/HH).

There has been some discussion of examining the ASLPI in the fall. Ms. Williams will take the ASLPI and the program will make a determination of whether that is a more accurate assessment of the students' ASL skills. If so, program staff will decide if either or both of the programs should be changed from requiring the SLIP to requiring the ASLPI. This will be a topic for future Advisory Board Meetings.

Dr. Scheetz then provided an update on the Georgia Educational Interpreter Licensure. She indicated that in order for interpreters to be credentialed in the state of Georgia they must now hold a four year degree and either be nationally certified or have earned a 3.5 on the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment. The state is working very hard to insure that students that are D/HH receive quality interpreting services.

She further reported that VSU is experiencing an increase in applications for the ASL/Interpreting program. Currently many of these requests are from distance learners. Dr. Scheetz reported that with double sectioning the skills classes we could serve up to nine students, if the screen size in the classrooms were increased. Philip Bishop from E-Learning confirmed this and said the larger screens are currently being discussed.

Dr. Scheetz then presented Board Members with the revised course schedule for the ASL/Interpreting program. Beginning in the fall, all of the junior skills classes will be taught in a condensed format for eight weeks. This will provide students with the skills they need to actively engage in their practicum experience for the remaining eight weeks of the semester. Previously students have observed in the fall during their practicum, only gaining the skills they need to actually interpret towards the end of the semester. This new format would allow them to master their skill set sooner and allow them to have more "hands up time" before the semester ends. Courses will be offered for six to eight hours per day. This will be a pilot project and we are anticipating it will be very well received.

Dr. Scheetz then opened the floor to participant feedback. Several comments were made: on the positive side our partners feel we are training very strong candidates. One of our former Deaf Education majors indicated we need to strengthen our coursework on varying exceptionalities because we have so many students that are deaf with additional exceptionalities. One of our interpreting students requested that Linguistics become a traditional face-to-face course as it was difficult for the students completing it online. This will be discussed in program meetings.

The program concluded with an announcement by Rencia Gravesande, ASL/Interpreting student with respect to Deaf, Deaf World. It will be held on April 25th at VSU. This year it will have a new format.

The meeting concluded at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted: Nanci A. Scheetz