

Minutes

Advisory Board Meeting: ASL/Interpreting and Deaf Education

Thursday, September 18, 2014, 7:00 PM

- The fall meeting of the Advisory Board for ASL/Interpreting and Deaf Education was held at 7:00 PM in the Dewar College of Education in the Dean's Conference Room.
 - Members in Attendance: Dr. Nanci Scheetz, Dr. Jennifer Beal-Alvarez, Ms. Christia Williams, Dr. Evelyn Chivers, Ms. Cindy Horne, Ms. Ronnie-May Tyson-Jones, Mr. Philip Bishop, Ms. Dana Pass, Ms. Rencia Gravesande, Mr. Taylor Patterson
 - Members not in Attendance: Ms. Melissa Artz, Ms. Etta Faggione, Dr. Shirley Thompson
 - Interpreters: Ms. Laura Byers and Ms. Kelly Spell

- Dr. Scheetz opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions; she then turned the meeting over to Ms. Christia Williams for an update on the ASL/Interpreting Program. She provided information on the:
 - New CCIE standards 2014 & Portfolio revision
 - New Practicum/skills course format – she explained how students enrolled in their fall interpreting block are receiving instruction in an eight week/condensed model with the goal of preparing them to enter their field experience (practicum this fall) with the skill set needed to have “hands on experience” rather than just accumulating observation hours. This is a new format and based on student evaluations at the conclusion of the semester and instructor feedback it will be determined if this is a model that should remain in place for fall of 2015.
 - Rencia commented that the schedule is very tough – oftentimes feeling that the students are rushing from one assignment to the next without having sufficient time or feedback to benefit from assessments. As a result, the assessments are now being spread out over the semester rather than compressed within the 8 week teaching segment.
 - Interpreting portfolio: A composite of student work
 - Practicum and Internship requirements – Ms. Williams further described the types of practicum sites she has been establishing for students to participate in once they complete their coursework. One of these will be an opportunity to go on a field trip and interpret for the deaf education majors. Other opportunities include interpreting plays and other extra-curricular events in addition to being placed in the school setting.
 - Ronnie-Mae offered the Vocational Rehabilitation Office as another practicum/internship site. Ms. Williams stated she would meet with her after the meeting to discuss what types of agreements would need to be implemented.

- Dr. Scheetz and Dr. Beal-Alvarez then provided an update on the Deaf Education Program

- Dr. Scheetz explained the new edTPA requirement. Beginning this fall all teacher candidates will be required to complete an edTPA portfolio. In this portfolio they will include lesson plans, a video of their learning segment, contextual factors, and commentaries. She explained that this is a “no consequence” year but beginning in the fall, 2015, every teacher candidate will need to complete their edTPA portfolio, upload it into Live Text and submit it to Pearson for evaluation. Students must receive satisfactory scores on this portfolio as it will become a graduation requirement. The cost for the evaluation is \$300.00.
 - Evelyn asked about VSU’s role in edTPA remediation and Dr. Beal-Alvarez followed up with an email to Ms. Jamie Bird, Field Experience Coordinator for additional information.
- She then, discussed the new grading scale. Students wishing to enter the Deaf Education program at an undergraduate level must now have a minimum 2.75 before they can be accepted into the program; this is an increase from 2.50 from the previous academic year. Once admitted to the program all professional courses within the major use a 7 point grading scale for assessments (i.e. 94-100, A; 87-93, B; 80-86-C; 73-79,D; below 72-F.
- Students majoring in Deaf Education have been required to take the SLPI. They must now score at the Intermediate level before they can enroll in any graduate courses requiring a field placement. Beginning in the fall, 2014, the SLPI at an Intermediate level was added to all of the graduate syllabi (requiring field experience) as a pre-requisite.
- Dr. Beal-Alvarez then discussed the GACE study modules. She explained that we were providing our students with additional opportunities to prepare by taking practical application assessments relating to IEP case study information and audiograms. Students have the opportunity to respond to the questions and then check the answers for accuracy.
- She then discussed the proposed Fairview Training. She demonstrated what the materials look like and explained that we are looking for funding sources in order to host a workshop at VSU for our students and teachers of the deaf in our area. She mentioned the possibility of participating in training at AASD. She also asked Board Members to think about any possible funding sources and share those with us if they are aware of any.
- Dr. Scheetz then opened the discussion for members from the floor. There was no further discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted, Nanci Scheetz