



Early Childhood Studies Advisory Meeting Notes

Date: April 26, 2024
Meeting Place:

Called to order: 8:30am

Chair(s): Thesa Roepke

Note Taker: Sandra Orozco
and Victoria Rivas

Council Members Present:

Thesa Roepke, Dr. Maria Suarez, Yvon Frazier, Diana Borjas, Michelle Graham, Christian Patterson, Jennifer Macdonald, Maria Miramontes, Dr. Susan Walsh, Vanni Rattanatray, Dr. Sofia Ramirez Gelpi, Diana Borjas, Michelle Robertson

Council Members Absent:

Blanche Holford, Asael Picasso, Janelle Willis,
Dr. Maria Rojas-Cortez

Ex-officio Member Present:

Agenda No. 1 Welcome and Icebreaker – What is your superpower?

Discussion: The power of the bumble bee “The bumble bee has a superpower!! Aerodynamically, the bumble bee should not be able to fly, but the bumble bee doesn’t know it, so it goes on flying anyway. What is your superpower discussion? Participants shared their superpowers with one another.

Action: None

Deadline: None

Responsibility:

None

Agenda No. 2 Child Development training Consortium-Y. Frazier (9:15am-9:30am)

Discussion:

1. Approval of Student Payment Policies. There is funding for college students taking ECS courses to give them stipend to help support retention to obtain certificate.
2. The 1st priority is given to students taking ECS classes and working in the field.
3. The 2nd priority is for students who are not working but taking ECS 118 or ECS 119.
4. Students can also apply for the stipend if they are enrolled in 6 units or ECS.
5. Each college is assigned a certain number of units and since more students come back to classroom and each unit can be reimbursed \$46 with a grade of C or better. AHC has been awarded 300 units.
6. Fall 2023 -- 40 students applied for a total of 284 units. Spring 2024 – 23 students applied for 179 units. Total units for the year are 463.
7. The advisory committee has agreed to have all funds be applied directly to eligible units applied for in the form of student stipends.
8. 1st Motion to move the payment policy to give money to students and 2nd motion passed. All committee members approved.

Action: **Vote for approval results: 13 yes 0 no**

Deadline: None

Responsibility:

None

**Agenda No. 3** ECS Lab School Tour-Purpose Statement (9:30am-10:00am)

Discussion: • Thesa provided a copy of the vetted ECS Vision Statement and Children’s Center Lab School Purpose Statement. Participants reviewed the document and had a discussion of the four aspects of the purpose. Following the discussion and document review, participants took a guided tour of the lab school and were asked to observe and note examples of how the purpose statement was seen in the environments.

Action: Next steps will be to construct the Children’s Center Lab School Philosophy with constituent participation

Deadline: Fall 2024

**Responsibility: ECS
Coordinator/Faculty/Lab
School staff**

Agenda No. 4 Agency Updates (10:00am-10:30am)

1. Workforce Industry Needs Survey complete by all present.
2. Ideas and suggestions made by council members:
 - i. Maria Suares shared that the AHC Lab School will be hiring two lab school teachers for the summer and fall terms. Positions will be hired for both the Santa Maria and Lompoc Lab Schools.
 - ii. Michelle Graham discussed the significant growth of Children’s Resource & Referral (CRR). CRR has expanded their main office headquarters to include a total of 28,000 sq ft. Michelle shared that the space is being utilized to expand services as well as reach the broader community. CRR is open to needs of the community to identify partnerships for best use of the expanded space.
 - iii. Christian Patterson announced that SBCEO is accepting fall applications for ARPA Infant Toddler funding. Their program’s goal is to partner with the library and hold possible job fair with Community Care Licensing for professional development.

Discussion:

- iv. Jennifer Macdonald reported that Communify is currently serving approximately 20% of their enrollment with special needs. Communify has a need for specially trained staff to support the classrooms and children with specialized needs,
- v. Maria Miramontes is working with the ECE foundation but there is still a lot of work to be done. Many of her students have enrolled in ECS courses.
- vi. Diana Borjas announced that the YMCA needs qualified staff. The YMCA has been partnering with CALM to provide specialized services for children and families in their programs that have mental health needs. Diana reported that their preschool has reached full enrollment.
- vii. Vani Rattanaray reported that AHC students come and observe in their center. Their center is open from Monday through Friday from 6:00am to 6:00pm. Dignity Health will no longer serve community families. Only families who work for Dignity Health will be eligible for care.

Action: ECS will use the information provided for program improvement and prioritize program needs.

Deadline: Spring 2024

**Responsibility: ECS
Faculty**

Agenda No. 5 ECS Program News (10:30am-11:15am) (See PowerPoint)

Discussion: 1. Integrated Teacher Program Planning (ITEP) Grants Update



2. Curriculum Update-TPE Integration/New Courses
3. Allan Hancock College Promise-2 Years Free
 - i. Hancock College offers two years of free tuition to local high school graduates through the Hancock Promise program. Incoming students may qualify for free or reduced-cost education at AHC through various programs, including the CA promise.
4. Modalities-Need for Distance Education Options for Workforce
 - i. Discussed enrollment trends and associated challenges with online classes, including low student engagement, and retention.
 - ii. Program aims to address these issues through a JEDI lens, faculty professional development, and course delivery.
5. Disencumbering & Sunsetting ECS/EDUC Courses/Programs
 - i. ECS 130 and ECS 132 will be disencumbered from EDUC 130 and EDUC 132. Additionally, the ECS degree in Elementary Education will be sun-setted due to approval of the AAT in Elementary Education. The program is not longer needed.
6. Thesa discussed the challenges with practicum hours for early Childhood Studies students, including limited hours of operation at the lab school and difficulty finding families for night programs. Students need lab hours during the late afternoons and evenings due to work, school, childcare, and other reasons.
7. OER Zero Cost Textbook Degree
 - I. Working on offering zero cost for textbooks for our ECS courses. The goal is to move towards a zero-cost degree program
8. Non-Credit Program- EDUN Certificate for Bilingual IA
9. Course Revisions Recommendations
 - i. ECS 311-Creative Learning Materials-Literacy Focus—To align with the TK TPEs
10. ECS Certificates Proposal-The ECS Program will be developing 5 certificates to meet industry demand for qualified professionals work with children. The certificates will be:
 - i. Associate Teacher-12 Units
 - ii. Teacher-24 Units
 - iii. Master Teacher- 32 Units
 - iv. Infant Toddler Specialization- 18 Units
 - v. Registered Behavior Technician (RBT)-12-24 Units

Deadline: Fall 2024 **Responsibility:** ECS Faculty

Agenda No. 6 Graduation Numbers (11:15am-11:20am)

Discussion: 1. Shared ECS Degrees & Certificate statistics from 2018 through 2023 as well as current degree/certificate applications for 2023-24 (without auto awarding), ECS program enrollment & headcount and ECS enrollment by modality. Our enrollment has increased since last year!

Action:

Deadline: None **Responsibility:**

Agenda No. 7 ECS Academic Program Statistics (11:20am-11:40am)

Discussion: • ECS statistics shared via power point presentation.

Action:



Deadline: None

Responsibility:

Reports:

Agenda No. 8 Early Childhood Studies Program Needs (11:40am-12:00pm)
Discussion

1. Complete course content review to support JEDI lens and purchase Instructional materials to update courses based on JEDI lens reflection-In Progress
2. Reinstate door to academic student prep room in I-200 (Laminator, instructional materials, and library). Update all observation room technology.
3. Purchase Instructional equipment to support academic instruction at LVC lab site
4. Administrative Assistant support for ECS program
5. Access to lab school virtually--Create raw videos of children, lab school tours of classrooms and other topic specific videos for online/hybrid modalities-In Process
6. Expand hours of operation at the lab school to support night courses with application strategies and instructional modalities and student access for course objectives and completion.
7. Revisit ECS Academic Program Philosophy and align Children's Center Lab School Philosophy-In Progress-EDC Fall 2024
8. Revisit ECSN Family Childcare Certificates and revise based on how the program-student feedback.
9. OER-Zero Cost Textbooks by Course and Degree
10. Work towards NAEYC Academic Program Accreditation
11. Provisions to support UTK/TK expansion and course offerings to meet workforce needs-Completed Fall 2023
12. Finalize stackable certificates that align with Child Development Permit Matrix
13. Associate Teacher, Teacher, Master Teacher, Infant toddler, & RBT Certification
14. Update COR to include CAP alignment and inclusion of TPEs-In Progress (100, 101, 102, 104 completed)
15. Revise course (ECS 311) revise to be Lang/Literacy Focused
16. Expand Lab School operations to support student access.
17. Disencumber ECS from EDUC courses sunset ECS Local Elementary Education Degree/Certificate

Action: **Vote for approval results: 13 yes 0 no**

Deadline: None

**Responsibility: ECS
Faculty**

Reports:



Agenda No. 9 Adjourned at 12:00pm

Discussion: • Be the Bee!!

Action: Next meeting Spring 2025