



Early Childhood Studies Advisory Meeting Notes

Date:

April 29, 2022

Meeting Place:

Zoom

Called to order: 9:00am-11:30pm

Chair(s): Thesa Roepke

Note Taker: Jayme Meraz

Council Members Present: Flora Chacon, Janelle Willis, Dr. Maria Rojas-Cortez, Melissa Diaz, Sharol Viker, Dr. Sofia Ramirez-Gelpi, Dr. Susan Walsh

Council Members Absent: None

Ex-officio Member Present: None

Agenda No. 1 Welcome

Discussion: •

Action: None

Deadline: None

Responsibility:

None

Agenda No. 2 ECS Program Review Update – Completion of 6-year program review

- Discussion:**
- The program review looks at different recommendations and different categories that can help support the program. Thesa Roepke shared and briefly went over some of the recommendations from the ECS Program Review document.
 - Building community for each class supports engagement and student success:
 - Seek ways to reduce the students drop out rates. During the COVID-19 pandemic AHC noticed a much higher student dropout rate. Students were not regularly attending or participating in classes and were either dropping out of classes or were being dropped by instructors due to lack of participation. Instructors also noticed that several students were regularly attending classes via Zoom but weren't submitting or completing their assignments. Drop out and course completion information is included in the program review data.
 - ECS is looking for additional opportunities for ECS students to apply what they are learning in their classes. The goal would be for students to complete their assignments by being involved in the workforce through centers and our community.
 - Adopting zero-cost or low-cost textbooks for courses. A few courses are already using zero-cost textbooks.
 - Revision of Curriculum
 - ECS does have a revised Curriculum Alignment Project (CAP) for our core eight courses. This includes:
 - The integration of the Teacher Performance Expectations (TPE). Goal for this coming year is to revise all core eight courses to include TPE
 - Non-Credit Pathway
 - Non-Credit pathway had a soft launch last fall and currently going into second certification. There has been good enrollment thus far.



Continued:

- Service Based Learning
 - AHC was approved as one of the institutions that students can receive up to \$10,000 in financial aid for completing 450 hours of community service or volunteer hours.
- Enrollment Changes
 - Most students right now are full-time students in a transfer degree pathway and not working.
- Fast-Track options
 - ECS is looking into providing fast track options to students. Currently ECS will be offering Transitional Kindergarten pathways, this will be available to all students.
- Curricular Changes
 - Dr. Rojas Cortez – How can we create apprenticeship programs to where they can take courses and go do observations, but at the same time, work part-time? This way organization can get graduated students who have work experience.
 - Willis – They are offering and Apprenticeship application. There is a hug need for people in the field and applicants aren't always as educated as they would like for them to be. Their goal is to get more people into the field working as apprentices while going to school.
 - Roepke – The ECS Program currently uses ECS 149 (Cooperative Work Experience) for their students. Students can select to be paid or unpaid-Employers can also post jobs for students through our Career Center. Students can have the same outcomes as an apprenticeship program.
 - Chacon – CAP of SLO has been needing substitutes to help relieve teachers. This could be a possible internship opportunity. They could provide support as a teacher assistant.
- Related Community Plans: Participate in the QRIS Consortia, Child Development Training Consortium, Teacher Pipeline, CCCECE and maintain the Future Teacher's Club.
- ECS is looking to advocate on a state level to make the current credentialing process more accessible to all groups of applicants and promote strategies to keep current workforce employable.

Action Plan:

Deadline: None

Responsibility: None

Agenda No. 3 ECS Program News

Discussion:

- AHC had a big decrease in student enrollment for the last school year.
- Career day was a success to boost enrollment for summer 2022 and fall 2022 registration.
- ECS 303 is only offered in the summer and has high enrollment of 49 students enrolled. Since this class is not a transfer degree course, it typically has had low enrollment.
- Sharol Viker has been a long time instructor at AHC and will be retiring this year. The Early Childhood Studies program thanks Sharol for her commitment and contribution to our student's educational experience and success and wishes her a great retirement.
- Degree / Certificate Changes
 - New course: ECS 123 Achieving social Justice, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the classroom (Fall 2022)
 - Revised Courses: ECS 117 Teaching Strategies for Dual Language Learners (revised course title, effective Spring 2023), ECS 115 Added prerequisite for ECS 151
 - Revised Certificate Degrees: Changing ECS Elementary Education: Bilingual/Bicultural to



Diversity Studies (effective Spring 2023)

- Proposed ECS Changes to Degrees and Certificates: ECS 149 will be added to all degree/certificate programs to support workforce application, hiring, and retention.
- A degree is to be added – AST in ECE.
- Degree / Certificate to be added: ECS in Elementary Education
- Consideration is being made to package courses into a 24-unit Teacher Level certificate to support workforce Child Development Permit Matrix and TK teacher certifications.
- New degree / certificate local degree option to support infant / toddler emphasis.
- Non-Credit VESL Bridge Program Update:
 - New descriptor VOCE to ECSN
 - Soft launch was during fall 2021 and was successful with spring 2022 enrollment at 14-21 students.
 - VESL component is beginning in fall 2022 term. When a student search ECS on the AHC website the non-credit and credit courses will both be listed.
 - Thesa created a new course scheduling plan that is between counseling, non-credit and the credit areas so that everyone is able to see the classes being offered.
 - Introduction to ECS certificate begins summer 2022

Action: None

Deadline: None

Responsibility: None

Agenda No. 4 ECS Academic Program Statistics

- Discussion:**
- Since the pandemic there has been a drop in enrollment. The college has been promoting classes and events in efforts to boost enrollment numbers.
 - During the 2020-2021 school year, 74% of students who registered in ECS courses successfully passed their course, which has been slightly less than the prior school year.
 - ECS was able to retain 88% of ECS registered students, which has been consistent with prior years.
 - There was a total of 63 course sections offered last year. The program is hoping to increase the number of sections offered.
 - The number of students receiving degrees and certificate has been on a steady incline throughout the last 6 years. The number of student graduates who transfer to a 4-year institution was at its highest last year with 33 students.
 - 2020-2021 ECS enrolled students totaled 584, which include; 92 first time students, 19 first time transfer students, 408 continuing students, 58 returning students, 44 special admitted students.

Action: None

Deadline: None

Responsibility: None

Agenda No. 5 Children’s Center Lab School

- Discussion:**
- Lab school is returning to its regular schedule and enrollment. Student access is being worked on so hopefully they are again able to access the lab school.

Action: None

Deadline: None

Responsibility: None

Agenda No. 6 Child Development Training Consortium

- Discussion:**
- In fall 2021, 18 students applied for a total of 165 units under the CDTC and during spring there were 25 students applying with a total of 173 units (total number of units is 338). Money was



awarded to the students who applied and were able to spend however they wished to use it. The disbursement of money was voted on and determined at the last advisory meeting.

Vote on the continuation of Student Payments and Policies for student stipend distribution. Stipends would be distributed based on successful completion of ECS course, remediation courses, General Education. Students would receive between \$25.00 -\$47.00/unit completed with a pass or letter grade of C or better based on total number of units available. Students must be working in a licensed childcare facility and be enrolled in an ECS practicum class.

Action:

- Continuing the payment policy was voted “yes” by 5 members.

Deadline: None

Responsibility: None

Agenda No. 7 Early Childhood Studies Program Needs

Discussion:

- Reinstate door to academic student prep room in I-200 (laminator instructional materials and Library)
- Support in new degree/certificate pathway to specialize workforce in infant toddler care
- Instructional equipment to support academic instruction at LVC lab site
- Administrative Assistant support for ECS program
- Access to lab school virtually. Create raw videos of children lab school tours of classrooms and other topic specific videos for online / hybrid modalities
- Provide night care at the lab school to support night courses with application strategies and instructional modalities
- Provisions to support UTK / TK expansion and course offerings to meet workforce needs
- High school recruitment efforts to increase enrollment
- Alignment of ECS / EDUC programs to support P-3 credential
- Update COR to include CAP alignment and inclusion of TPEs
- Expand lab school operations to support student access
- Completion of ECS 6-year program review action plan

Action: None

Deadline: None

Responsibility:

None

Agenda No. 8 Agency Updates

How can we support your workforce?

Discussion:

- CSU Channel Islands shared that they have created a new credential based off of AC standards that could affect lower elementary grades. A recommendation was made to inform students so they are aware of a new needed credential.
- There has been a challenge having working students work in a children’s center for at least 6 months. Students teachers cannot teach and get paid therefore students aren’t able to afford to leave their job to student teach.

Action: None

Deadline: None

Responsibility:





End of notes.