

MINUTES

Early Childhood Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Date | time 3/31/2017 8:00 AM | Meeting called to order by Sandee Plescia

In Attendance

Members Present:

Jami Nguyen—Executive Director, Land of Learning

Tina Holtz—ECE Program, DeKalb High School

Members Absent:

Steve Kimmel—Director, Kishwaukee College Early Childhood Center

Kristin Schulz—Acting Director, NIU Campus Child Care

Pam Wicking—Program Director, CCR&R

Shannon Alamia—Associate Director, Children's Learning Center

Diane Kubetz—ECE Instructor, KEC

Others Present:

Sandee Plescia—ECE Program Coordinator, Kishwaukee College

Joanne Kantner—Executive Dean of Learning Services, Kishwaukee College

Bill Nicklas—Executive Director, Kishwaukee College Foundation

Brianna Hooker—Administrative Assistant to Instruction, Recorder, Kishwaukee College

Approval of Minutes

Fall 2016 minutes were reviewed and approved by a unanimous vote of committee members.

Spring 2017 Enrollment Report

Referencing the 10th Day Report for Enrollment:

SP16 Heads	SP17 Heads	Heads Change		SP16 Credits	SP17 Credits	CH Change	CH%
50	40	-10		157.0	125.0	-32.0	-20.4%

Sandee reports that although ECE Program enrollment is down, it is reflective of the college as a whole.

Joanne expresses importance of looking at both, heads and credit hours because they reflect very different pictures in some cases. However, in this case, the numbers reflect one another.

Sandee attributes some decrease in enrollment to financial aid barriers and scheduling issues. Only offering certain classes once a year has posed some issues for students.

Bill reports on the Champion Fund and Just in Time Funds through the Foundation and how these funds may be of great benefit particularly to students in ECE. Just in Time Funds are often issued as gift certificates for gas, groceries, and other needs for students who have managed to pay tuition but are struggling financially to get by in other life areas.

Sandee seeks clarification on financial aid resources with regard to summer classes. Joanne confirms that there are no Pell Grants available for summer courses. However, many students may be eligible for WIOA financial aid which can be widely used for many types of expenses. As a general rule, people who are eligible for Pell are often also eligible for WIOA. Also, WIOA is not exclusive as you can receive other financial aid and still be eligible for WIOA grants.

Internships/Student Teaching Update

Sandee reports having one student enrolled in ECE 281 and she is interning at NIU Campus Child Care. Sandee recently met with a corporate representative of KinderCare because they are interested in creating an internship program and would like to partner with Kishwaukee College.

Sandee is expecting to have 6-7 internship students for the first section in Fall 2017.

ACTION ITEM: Sandee will contact LaCretia Konan, Director of Business and Training Partnerships, to investigate further internship opportunities.

Program Updates

Spring 2017 Portfolio Report:

There is only one Spring 2017 Portfolio as there is only one student graduating this semester. Sandee reports that this is the best portfolio she has seen in 20 years of teaching. Sandee distributes the blank rubric she used for grading this portfolio.

Joanne confirms that this portfolio demonstrates how well the students are learning the content in the courses.

Summer/Fall Advising:

Sandee reports working on Summer and Fall advising over the past few weeks.

Marketing Summer/Fall Classes:

Sandee passed around the flyer created by the Marketing Department for Summer ECE Courses and reports currently working on a new flyer for Fall 2017.

Additional ECE Course will be offered online Fall 2017 (ECE 210 The School Age Child)

Sandee reports that offering some online classes is beneficial for students who have difficulty with scheduling and being on campus everyday so this should assist with that concern. The committee expresses value in on campus courses because of the hands on experience that is missed with online courses.

Joanne suggests investigating hybrid courses to compromise where there would be some online course but still include hands on classroom time.

To expand further on the scheduling concern, Sandee sees an obstruction with student teaching being 5 days a week with 3 hour shifts and considers doing longer shifts with less days per week. Jami is hesitant to accept this because student teachers would not be getting as much hands on experience if they are present during primary drop off/pick up times and nap time.

Proposed ECE Professional Behavior Policy

Sandee has created a new ECE Professional Behavior Policy and provides a handout of the proposed policy to committee members. Committee is pleased to see this updated policy and appreciates knowing the standards to which the students are being held to while in school.

New Professional Behavior Policy is approved by a unanimous vote by committee.

Tina introduces new state law that is being practiced by high schools in the state regarding behavior policies.

Essentially, behavior issues including attendance, are being addressed on a case-by-case method rather than blanket policies. This may impact the expectation of students regarding professional behavior and attendance in years to come at the college level.

Sandee asks Jami if Land of Learning has an attendance policy for employees. Jami reports that Land of Learning has implemented a policy although it is in place for employees who have routine and significant attendance issues.

Industry Recognized Certifications

Sandee reports changes to Gateways ECE Credential is effective as of 1/1/2018 which creates a need to realign the entire curriculum to meet these new Credentials. Sandee provides a handout which outlines the groundwork of the new Illinois Gateways ECE Credential Competency Development Process. Fall 2017 Advisory Committee meeting will be heavily composed of curriculum changes, we will need to vote on the changes so they can move along down the line to become approved in time for this change.

Curriculum

To address the new Credentials, Sandee is going to be developing two new courses:

ECE The Exceptional Child

ECE Observation and Assessment

Again, more detail to come at Fall meeting.

Enrollment in Local Childcare Programs

Sandee reports low enrollment in many local childcare programs. NIU is low enough that they have had to close a classroom. No mention on the cause of this low enrollment of children.

Jami reports Land of Learning is full. However, this may change due to Sycamore bussing changes. Jami also reports IDHS is requiring all childcare providers to take 28 continuing education courses by September 30, 2017 and she was just made aware of this requirement in February. This includes all directors, head teachers, assistant teachers, and students. However, interns are not required because they are not paid employees. This will have a major economic impact on childcare centers.

Open Discussion

Jami reports difficulty lately in finding quality employees. No further discussion on potential causes of this challenge.

Joanne notices a discrepancy between Fall enrollment and Spring enrollment. Enrollment trends seem to show better enrollment in Fall than in Spring, seeks ideas from Sandee as to why that might be.

- Sandee explains a two-fold cause; one, students are being advised by counselors in the Fall and then when they meet with Sandee for Spring semester they are already behind because they have not taken all of the required classes to move forward. The second aspect is that courses are only being offered once a year, so now instead of a student being one semester behind, they are a full year behind.
- Joanne is curious about full time vs part time students? And, are these students taking more gen ed courses rather than ECE courses. Independent Study courses are also an option.
- Tina is curious about the possibility of linking ECE 112 and ECE 220 since these really need to be taken together in the same semester in order to stay on track. Is there a way to require students to register for both instead of just one.
 - ACTION ITEM: Sandee will investigate this further.
 - ACTION ITEM: Sandee will communicate with Michelle about advising concerns.

Next Meeting

9/22/2017 8:00 AM, Kishwaukee College, Room TBA

Meeting Adjourned 9:15 AM.