SMC Education/Early Childhood

Annual Advisory Meeting

April 24, 2019

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

**Meeting Minutes**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Department Updates
   1. Prior to the meeting, a slideshow of departmental updates and information was sent out to all participants. See file titled **2018-2019 Advisory - Pre Meeting Information**.
   2. Laura Manson is on sabbatical during the Spring 2019 semester. She is researching best practices in outdoor education and plans to create new coursework and a certificate program in this area. She will return in June 2019.
   3. Welcome our two new full-time faculty hires… Emily Elam and Sharlene Joachim
   4. Degrees and Certificates
      1. The ECE Core department certificate has been converted to a State Chancellor’s Office recognized Certificate of Achievement in Early Childhood Education Assistant Teacher
      2. So far this year, 152 certificates and 120 degrees have been earned
   5. ECE Hiring Event
      1. Joan Kang & AnnMarie Leahy, Career Services – Career services has been coordinating several events such as resume workshops and interview techniques to better prepare students for an upcoming job fair as well as professional growth.
         1. Employers encouraged to post positions on job portal. Employers Can access resumes in portal, and review candidates.
         2. Can participate staring May 3rd to may 23rd. If interested, please register at: [WWW.SMC.edu/ECEinterviewday](http://WWW.SMC.edu/ECEinterviewday)
   6. Noncredit ECE
      1. Shared a summary of progress made by students in ECE 900, 901, 902, and 903
   7. E.C.E. Club
      1. Cathi Miller and Jeanette Lopez are faculty advisors for the new Enlightened Childhood Educators Club
         1. Looking for guest speakers and fundraising opportunities
         2. First speaker planned – Dina Cervantes, Working in ECE Policy
   8. Mentor Program
      1. Ellen Khokha, Program Coordinator:
         1. SMC has 26 mentors; 50 percent of practicum students are working with our mentors
         2. Students work with mentors for 105 hours
         3. Selection process happens once a year
         4. Mentors do get stipends for working with students.
         5. Practicum instructors have been very helpful in coordinating with the mentor teachers.
   9. Lab School
      1. Shari Davis:
         1. Growing place is operator of lab school.
         2. Observation room and ECE faculty space will be in east wing.
         3. Construction is scheduled to be computed by end of year.
         4. Opening is scheduled for fall 2020
         5. La2050 grants – votes requested for challenge so that SMC can receive a grant for 100K for startup costs.
3. New Business
   1. Discussion - Noncredit Parenting and Early Field Experience Courses
      1. Discussed need for parenting courses for student and community parents to be held on campus and in targeted locations throughout the community
      2. Strong preference for separate infant/toddler and preschool age groups
      3. Importance of incorporating mindfulness and community resources
      4. Should contain a playgroup component, so children can attend with parents
      5. Playgroup component should be staffed by SMC students, supervised by faculty
   2. Motion made to approve development of 2 new noncredit parenting courses and 1 early field experience course (comment made that community experts would like to be involved in the course planning).
      1. Unanimous approval
   3. Discussion – Nature-Based Pedagogy Courses and Certificate
      1. Advisory identified a need for professional growth and continued leadership from the college in the full spectrum of nature-based pedagogy and environments in early childhood education.
      2. The Santa Monica Early Childhood Lab School should be a model for nature-based practices.
      3. There is a strong need for professional development and training in this area for the current and future local ECE workforce.
      4. College leadership is needed in this area. The community needs outreach, training, and education to better understand and embrace risk tolerance and how to frame the necessity of time in nature for parents.
      5. Recommendation made to develop a sequence of two courses in this area that could count as a possible specialization for the master teacher permit and higher.
   4. Motion made to approve development of 2 new nature-based pedagogy courses and a related certificate of achievement. Courses should focus on the science/theory, assessment strategies, and environments/curriculum that support nature-based play and learning in early childhood.
      1. Unanimous approval
   5. Advisory Feedback Surveys
      1. Each table of participants received an iPad with a targeted feedback survey preloaded. Participants were asked to discuss each question and record their responses.
      2. Summary of responses from feedback survey attached.