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## College of Education Early Childhood Education Committee Meeting : 2008 : 11 : 21

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## Childhood Education Program Meeting

November 21, 2008

Present: Dean Vivian Fueyo, Dr. Cynthia Leung, Associate Dean Deanna Michael, Dr. Juanita Fountain, Dr. Michael Sampson, Dr. Margaret Hewitt, Dr. Zafer Unal, Dr. Gayle-Evans, Ms. Jennefer Khattabi

- 1) **Approval of the Agenda**—Agenda approved.
- 2) **Approval of the Minutes**—Minutes presented with Dean Fueyo's revisions, Dr. Unal's additions and Associate Dean Michael's input. Dean Fueyo moved to accept the minutes. Dr. Sampson seconded the motion.
- 3) **Dean's report – Dean Vivian Fueyo**

### Item One

Dean Fueyo explained that there are funds from foundation accounts available for children's and adolescent books for our students to use in our courses. The college was able to purchase high interest books for adolescent boys by Elise Leonard for Dr. Leung to use in her classes. Ms. Khattabi is planning to use these books in her courses, as well. Dean Fueyo presented this opportunity to the entire Childhood Education faculty so that they could develop a list of books that could be purchased for use in their courses. She wants the college to support faculty in achieving their goals for student learning in their courses. Dr. Hewitt suggested that a committee be formed to complete this task. Dr. Gayle-Evans suggested that we build on the existing children's collection in the library. Dr. Hewitt proposed that we invite Jerry Notaro to the December meeting. Dr. Leung said that we should consider the books that have been selected for the Coretta Scott King Award. Dr. Senokossoff suggested a set, Sunshine, New Brick leveled trade book sets for guided reading that costs about \$300. Dean Fueyo suggested that we bring our ideas for books that we could buy to the January meeting, to which we could also invite Jerry Notaro from the library.

### Item Two

#### Pathways to Literacy

Dean Fueyo introduced Dr. Sampson's involvement with a special conference for teachers entitled Pathways to Literacy. Dr. Sampson and Dean Fueyo met with Interim Superintendent Julie Janssen in June of 2008. She was very excited about the possibility of having such a renowned conference here for her teachers to attend. This week, Superintendent Janssen committed district funds to support 300 teachers from the PCS to attend the conference at USFSP June 10, 11, and 12, 2009.

Dr. Sampson also explained that this event would help to raise money for scholarships for students to take graduate courses on our campus.

Then Dr. Sampson gave us a brief history of the Pathways conferences. Bill Martin started the conferences to expose teachers to presentations by famous authors. The teachers were ultimately they were won over by the high quality breakout sessions with master teachers. The International Institute of Literacy Learning presents these conferences. Each conference has a brochure, which is especially good because the

brochures are mailed out to a wide audience which helps ensure broader participation. Teachers feel much energized after the conferences. They say it is like going to summer camp. Dr. Senokossoff attended one of these conferences and testified that she learned so much from the speakers and the sessions. She also said that it was a very uplifting experience. "It is a good P.R. event for the college," Dr. Sampson explained.

When the conference goes on for five days, the teachers can sign up for credit equivalent to a 3-hour course. The conference will be supported by Title II funds from the Pinellas County Schools and Progress Energy Foundation funds from a project of Dean Fueyo's.

The conference will be held at USF St. Petersburg for three hundred teachers for 3 days.

The suggested dates from the county are June 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup>. The other proposed dates would be in August before school starts. Dr. Sampson said that in order to get the best presenters, the June dates would be best. Associate Dean Michael suggested that if it is in August the teachers would have already planned the majority of the curriculum for the upcoming year, if the conference is held in June the teachers will have time to let what they learn and experience "percolate" over the summer before they plan for the next year.

Dr. Sampson asked if the group would like to open this opportunity up to other districts to bring in more people and money. Dean Fueyo shared that Dr. Sampson will direct all profits to scholarships for teachers to take classes here at USFSP. The cost for individuals outside of Pinellas Schools to sign up to attend the conference will probably be \$299.

Dr. Fountain asked if we will be offering housing here on campus for people attending the conference. Dr. Sampson said that this would be good, if the space is available in the dorms. Now they are full. Dr. Hewitt asked if we will we open it up for other counties? Now we just have Pinellas County involved.

#### **4. FLARE (Florida Literacy and Reading Excellence)**

Dr. Senokossoff gave her report on the highlights of the conference.

Sandra Robinson, from UCF, gave a presentation on the state of affairs in Florida at the FLARE conference. She explained that all community colleges may become four year institutions. Then she told participants that Florida received an accountability grant which requires that we have Regional Educational Directors under the Department of Accountability Management. The Regional Educational Directors answer to the Chancellor of Education, Dr. Frances Hitchcock, and she answers to Dr. Eric Smith, the Commissioner of Education. Nicoli Vete is the Panhandle director and he is the head director of the Regional Educational Directors. Gayle Davies is the Regional Educational Director for our area. If a district isn't doing well, then the

Regional Educational Director for the area can go to the district and make demands of the district to try to improve the situation.

This is affecting FLARE operations. FLARE trains literacy coaches. FLARE is funded by Reading First. It is also funded by state money. The Regional Educational Directors are asking Reading directors to do work for them. They already have a job and do not have time for these additional demands on their time. Schools receive three levels of support from FLARE. Enrique Puig is the head of FLARE. The Regional Educational Directors asked the reading directors from Flare to report back what is happening in the schools. The FLARE directors are concerned that this request may undermine their ability to help schools.

Right now, FLARE is waiting to see what will happen to Reading First.

Enrique Puig said that Pinellas County has gotten rid of their coaches. No one in Pinellas \_\_\_\_\_?help?\_\_\_\_\_. Evan Lesky's goal to bring assessment back in line with best practice is becoming a reality with the new assessments that are coming out. DIBELS will be going away, eventually. The new assessments are very similar to Marie Clay's assessment. They are supposed to be very good assessments that are very thorough. They (who are they? FLARE?) will come back to do training in the new assessments that will replace DIBELS. They will offer training all summer around the state. And then they will have training Dec 17th and 18th of the new assessment at UCF.

Mary Little is on the state Response to Intervention committee. (RtI) Dr. Little said that the special education information is being introduced to regular education teachers as subtly as possible. She is the lead on the grant.

RTI website: <http://RtITLC.ucf.edu>

Florida's RTI Implementation Plan link:  
[www.florida-rti.org](http://www.florida-rti.org)

The course can be accessed at [http://floridarti.usf.edu/intro\\_course](http://floridarti.usf.edu/intro_course)

## **5. New Business**

Associate Dean Michael asked for volunteers to read the Dual Track comprehensive exams. Drs. Sampson and Hewitt volunteered to help with this.

Dr. Hewitt made a motion for a small group comprising Drs. Hewitt, Michael, Leung, and Sampson meet to discuss possible exit requirements for the Dual Track program in lieu of comprehensive examinations. It was suggested that Dr. Braun be included. Dean Fueyo suggested that the program take ownership and not invite Dr. Braun at this point. Dr. Hewitt suggested that we have several people discuss the situation. Dr.

Hewitt will chair this committee. In the spring, we will pilot something new in place of the comprehensive exams. Dr. Gayle-Evans suggested\_\_\_\_\_ Deanna proposed that Steve be involved. Deanna, Margaret, Cynthia, Michael and Steve will be on the committee.

Dr. Gayle-Evans stated that if any of the group's discussions related to or affected LAE 6613, she would like to be included. Dr. Hewitt said that it would not, but if it did, at any point, they would involve her, immediately.

Dr. Leung shared that several of the reading master's students said that they are experiencing redundant course material. A prerequisite to the program is to take an undergraduate course in intermediate reading. The students learn much of the same material that Dr. Leung teaches in the graduate reading assessment course. Dr. Hewitt said that when the students meet with her to get started in the program, she looks at the work that they have done. She suggests RED 4310 instead of RED 4511 depending on their prior course work. RED 4511 is comparable to the graduate reading assessment course. Dean Fueyo said that we should look at the DOE folio to determine which reading competencies are covered on these courses. She suggested that this topic be an agenda item at the December meeting, so that the entire program faculty can review the matrix in the folio.

## **6. Open Discussion**

Margaret attacked the sandwiches. Then she ripped the plastic off of them like a mad woman starved for roast beef. (I recommend we remove this accurate observation from the final version of the minutes).

Dr. Fountain shared with the committee that she met a lady that used our folio as a model for her college. Dr. Fountain believes that she was possibly from Broward College.

Dr. Senokossoff said that Governor Crist will try to raise the tuition at universities. The group discussed how this might affect our college and the university.

Dr. Fountain stated that Bill Heller spoke to the Florida Minority Scholarship committee.

The next meeting will be at 10:00 on December 12th.

Dr. Unal moved to adjourn the meeting and Dr. Senokossoff seconded the motion.