

ECE ADVISORY BOARD 2011-12 MEETING AGENDA

December 8, 2012

1.0 Welcome and introductions

Advisory Board members Diana Decker, Charmaine Fitzgerald, Alix Fraser, Karen Garlick, Susan Glover, Wilma Hashimoto, Deborah Hughes, Carol Kilburn, Catherine Mathis, Susan McCloskey, Marilyn Mikow, Dolores O'Neal, & Cyndi Steele introduced themselves.

ECE faculty members Shareen Abramson, Jacques Benninga, Marilyn Shelton, and Susan Macy introduced themselves.

Fall 2011 graduating ECE graduate students Estafana Antonio, Chamreon Yann, Candy Cowlings, Juliana Bonilla, Allison Hopkins, Sarah Grijlva, and Rachael Simpson introduced themselves.

2.0 Presentations of ECE Master's Graduate Projects

Each ECE graduate student presented a two-minute overview of their MA thesis or project. Based on that introduction, faculty and Board members each attended two 15-minute Project presentations.

3.0 Program summary for 2011-12

3.1 Credential Program

ECE Program Coordinator Susan Macy explained that starting this spring, the ECE program would be admitting new credential students only for the spring semester due to lower applications, school-wide. Based on 3-semester program, we have a semester 1 and a semester 3 cohort every spring, and a semester 2 cohort every fall. In spring, 2011, 24 students were admitted and 28 were scheduled to graduate with their Multiple Subject Preliminary Credential.

Susan reported that the ECE program was holding their annual spring Celebration and that ECE Advisory Board member Dolores Neal had been selected as the Fansler Foundation ECE Leader of the Year.

Susan announced that Jacques had been on sabbatical in the fall; Shareen this spring semester; Pam will be on sabbatical this coming fall; Susan will be gone in the spring. Marilyn is healthy, has officially retired and will be semi-retired and working half-time for the next 5 years.

3.2 Graduate Program

The ECE Program admitted 18 students this year and graduated 10. We have admitted 16 for fall, 2012. We are doing lots of marketing and encouraged Board members to assist in that effort by having good candidates to contact her.

3.3 Joyce M. Huggin's Early Education Center

Catherine Mathis reported that the Joyce M. Huggins Early Education Center was at full capacity and that Kathie Reid who has been Center Director is now the department chairperson for the Child and Family Studies. Susan Macy has been named the new Director of the Huggins Center.

4.0 Facilitated discussion of Transitional Kindergarten

Dr. Marilyn Shelton facilitated a discussion of California's newly proposed Transitional Kindergarten grade level. Ms. Wilma Hashimoto who directs early education programs for Fresno County Office of Education provided an update on proposed legislation (SB1381) and plans for piloting classes in Fresno County schools.

Board members and faculty discussed the proposed legislation and expressed the following concerns:

- Would TK become a "mini-kindergarten?"
- Would developmentally appropriate practices be implemented for 4 year olds?
- What type of standards would be implemented? Would 4 year olds be expected to achieve kindergarten standards? How would Desired Results be used at this grade level?
- Would parents take their 4 year olds out of tradition childcare facilities to attend free public school TK?
- Would the requirement that TK classes be taught by credentialed teachers be a problem since so few were trained to work with children under the age of kindergarten? Would teachers who had experience with upper grades seek out TK classes and would they be prepared?

In addition, Wilma announced a partnership between Fresno County Office of Education, First5 of California, the Lucille Packard Foundation, and the Fansler Foundation (Huggin's Early Education Center) to sponsor a series of workshops for TK teachers and potential teachers over the next year. The Board enthusiastically endorsed the workshops.