

Sign Language Interpreting Department

Advisory Board Meeting February 6, 2014

AGENDA

- I PRESENT:** Breanna Andrews, Pauline Annarino, Robert Augustus, Julie Bradley, George Dorough, Peggy Huber, James Jenkins, Ryan Mahler, Lalo Padilla, David Pesqueria, Davena Peters, and Bob Stuard
- II MINUTES APPROVAL:** Minutes were approved with minor corrections
- III STATE OF THE COLLEGE (Jim Jenkins)**
- Jim shared that the college is still in a growth mode due to increased state funding but this growth would now be done strategically. Instead of just replacing the same offerings that were cut during the economic down turn, the college will first analyze what students actually need to take to complete degrees/certificates and to transfer. What this means for our program is that over the next couple of years we should be able to grow modestly especially in our SIGN 101 offerings since this course feeds into our CTE program and meets G.E. requirements for Mt. SAC degrees and at the CSU and UC levels.
 - Ginny Burley, who had been a long time supporter of our program starting back in her days as Associate Dean, retired as Vice President of Instruction. In her stead the college hired Irene Malmgren. Bob Stuard has met with her, and we have every reason to expect the same level of support as we had with Ginny
- IV STATE OF THE PROGRAM**
- As mentioned above we have been able to grow in our SIGN 101 offerings and this Spring will be offering 12 sections total with 6 in the day 6 in the afternoon/evening.
 - We have added three new Faculty to our adjunct pool Fred Gravatt, Jet Hurley and Maisha Franklin.
 - David Pesqueria updated us on the Speech and Sign Success Center. We now have a new director from the Communications Department, Crystal Lane Swift. Bob Stuard has met with her and she seems enthusiastic about leading the Center had has show an interest in learning ASL. David stressed the need for increasing tutoring hours and updating the Center's computers and equipment.
 - As a note on our ever expanding and adapting Curricula, as approved by this body, SIGN 201 is now being taught as "Introduction to Deaf Studies".
- V DISCUSSION ITEMS**
- If a student comes to us with no signing background it takes forever for them to complete our program. At Bob Stuard's meeting with our new V.P. of Instruction, she suggested that we look into offering part of our ASL Sequence in 8-week sessions. The suggestion was to offer back-to-back ASL 2 & 3 and ASL 4 & 5. We will look into this possibility.
 - Proposed Applied Baccalaureate Degrees at California Community Colleges: Although it has been suggested before without result there is a new legislative movement gaining ground state wide to allow Community Colleges to offer Applied Baccalaureate Degrees. When these are discussed allied Health careers like nursing are always mentioned

as perfect programs to be offered on this basis. Pauline Annarino concurred with our assessment that the same is true of the field of Sign Language Interpreting. For some time now the field has been going more and more towards Baccalaureate level education. We need to be on the cutting edge of developments in this arena, and if it becomes possible, seriously consider transforming our program to the Bachelors of Science level.

VI ACTION ITEMS

- **New proposed course in ASL Writing:**
Bob Augustus's writing system for writing ASL, the 'si5s' system, is gaining ground. He has taught a course in si5s at Gallaudet University both in person and on-line. Students who complete our program must take 3 electives and presently we only offer 4 choices. A course in ASL writing would be an excellent option for those completing the major and for others interested in pursuing this aspect of the language. It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously that we should develop this course and add it to our elective offerings.
- **Creating a SIGN 101H course:**
Mt SAC have the largest honors program of any single campus community college district. As part of their program and to achieve special recognition students complete a cadre of honors courses. These courses are variations of regular G.E. courses that are adapted in some way to give these honors students an enriched experience. Also, these courses tend to create more opportunity for collaboration among students and individual attention from the professor since the class size is reduced to 20. The foreign language department is currently working on adding honors courses to their offerings. SIGN 101 is a very popular choice of the general student population looking to fulfill their G.E. requirements and would be an excellent choice for honors students as well. It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously that we should develop a SIGN 101H course and add it to our offerings.
- **Reducing class size of SIGN 223 SIGN 225 and SIGN 239:**
The interpreting sequence begins with SIGN 223 and SIGN 227 that are typically taken together. The class size in SIGN 227 is 14 as it is in the subsequent courses taken in that series, SIGN 231, SIGN 232. Also the interpreting electives SIGN 250 and SIGN 260 have a class size of 14. There is a mismatch with SIGN 223 and SIGN 225 with a class size of 25 and SIGN 239 (our capstone class) with a class size of 20. It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously to amend SIGN 223, SIGN 225 and SIGN 239 to reduce the class size of these courses to 14 bringing these courses in line with all the other core interpreting courses.
- **Increase units in SIGN 201, 202, 220, & 250:**
The corpus of information and the level of entry-level skills and knowledge in the field of Sign Language Interpreting have grown astronomically in recent years. To try to cover all that needs to be covered to prepare entry-level interpreters requires more time. Instead of adding more courses to our program, we suggest that we increase the units and time committed to some of our existing courses. There was general agreement that this should be the way to go. It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously that we should increase the hours spent and unit value of the following courses: SIGN 201, 202, 220, & 250.