

To: Bill & Cabinet  
From: Richard  
Re: Child (academic department) Lab Supervision

3 March 2020

As part of the NRA we worked through last week, I presented (but we did not fund) the “Full-time Coordinator for the Child Observation Lab”:

“Full-time permanent coordinator, child observation lab. The Mt. SAC Child Development & Education Department is dedicated to training students in rich child observation, practicum and fieldwork experiences. Operating a campus-based child observation laboratory is an effective, proven, and recognized model for student success. Through participation in the lab, students are able to gain the skills, dispositions and abilities necessary for success in early care, education and related fields.”

This is a full-time position serving the *academic* Child Development Department. Questions about this position at earlier cabinet meetings suggest some confusion between the *instructional* department (which is dependent on college funding) and the Child Development *Center*, which has access to a variety of funding streams—all of which are constrained and may not be used to support other activities. I acknowledge it was my own fuzzy understanding of the distinction between the two that made me a less effective advocate prior to the Feb. 25 allocations we made.

This position provides supervision to students enrolled in Child Development courses who have as a required instructional activity observation of children in a children’s center. The fact that we have both an academic program and a children’s center is a convenience for our students, but it also leads to confusion about the distinct needs and funding sources for the academic *program* and the child-care *service*. This supervision has never been provided by faculty, as it is outside of the class time. However, faculty are investigating making the observation lab an apportionment-generating lab, as *perhaps* CORs could be modified to generate apportionment for this mandatory element of the courses—but that could not be effective before fall 2021.

The professional expert incumbent has been Title V-funded in the past and is currently Perkins funded—but that funding will run out this fiscal year. Without trained supervision, students will be unable to complete a mandatory requirement in over twenty courses—and those in a department that has been very productive of a wide range of completions, including 22 ADTs in 2017-18.

New funding is not crucial for Spring 2020, but will be necessary for Summer 2020 courses, which will need to be scheduled and staffed before the July 2020 NRA comes around. Immediate Needs funding would be feasible for Summer 2020 with the long-term disposition left for the next NRA.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dr. Manuel Baca • Rosanne M. Bader • Jay Chen  
Judy Chen Haggerty, Esq. • Gary Chow • Robert F. Hidalgo • Laura Santos

COLLEGE PRESIDENT / CEO – Dr. William T. Scroggins

