

Zoom **Minutes DRAFT**

MEMBERS PRESENT Peggy Lott

Joseph Harrison
San Diego Mesa College
School of Health Sciences and Public
Service American Sign Language –
English Interpreting Advisory Committee
Monday, April 26, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. Via

STAFF PRESENT

Tina Recalde, Dean
Daniel Nakaji, Chair
Leslie Styles, Department Chair
Laura Mathis, Counselor
Annette Miner

1. **Call to order:** Advisory Committee Chair, Dr. Daniel Nakaji, called the meeting at 1:00 pm
2. **Welcome/Introductions:** Members introduced themselves to the committee
3. **Approval of the minutes:** Fall 2020 Advisory Minutes were approved
4. **Old Business:**

1. **AMSL Basic ASL Skills courses** - 5 units credit lecture

Professor Styles stated that the program has a curriculum change. The college needs to meet students' needs, and check what they prefer to have class-wise in a week period of time. Having 3 times a week will have longer time in the lab. For lab 1 unit will be 3 hours; that means more credits. It will be 4 hours, plus 1 lab; altogether will be 7 hours. It will be interesting to see if works well for students to sit for 2 ½ hours. On a different note, scheduling has been problematic, but now we'll have less of those problems. Two classes being taught will work. We need the contract to be 0.335 FTE per class. Part time instructors can go up to .267, the goal is to have the teachers situated as the program expands and things get better. Professor Mathis stated that this is much better for students and more in alignment with other foreign languages.

2. **COVID-19 concerns Online classes**

Professor Styles mentioned that there has been pros and cons to having online classes, and that the program has encountered several challenges due to students not having internet access, no devices to connect, and faculty had to handle all of that; it was overwhelming. The seventh semester transition was little better, they had gone home. There were State changes, with fall, students came back and everything was different again.

The program being completely on line, asynchronous online 100% where there is no real time with teachers, and then, having synchronous where we make time to meet real time with students, then we have the Hybrid model, online and on class face to face.

Apparently, most of students prefer 100% face to face coming back; some prefer

online. We would like to have feedback on how having online classes for 2 years impacted them. Maybe in our next meeting will be ready to discuss that.

Dr. Nakaji mentioned that the situation changes on a weekly basis, as there are several vaccines available, and is hard to tell.

Professor Styles said that having a mask is also a challenge.

Mrs. Lott asked how USCD plan all this time being online, no asynchronous. In the fall USCD wants to have 100% back on campus.

Professor Styles said If the mask is still required, we will go online. Can't teach language with having the mask. It is believed that the County is requiring the mask. We got to be able to communicate. We'll see how this progress. Regarding DSP, we talked about the ASL one online class, I was unsure this was my first year using LPI (digital now) with mesa started using canvas, there is no downloading or e-book, is only internal. The instructors set up everything that is required, courses need to be completed, no physical book; they only need a code to access canvas. ASL 2 will be released at the end of June. 3 and 4 are still a work in progress; we are in the middle of videoing and filming this summer.

Dean Recalde asked Joseph if he could find out if students for level 1 or 2 will have access in the summer to review their material and be ready for fall.

Answer: in general, access is available for 1 year.

Professor Styles mentioned that currently students are relying on their e-mail to have access, like blackboard. If the school encrypts their e-mail that will be a problem, like the Moodle. They have two different courses to access via e-mail. We will look further

how we can work around not being encrypted so that we have access to everything, so students can go back and review what they experienced over time as the semester goes on, now that we lose the text book and the DVD. It will be good for students to have the ability to review their material, especially knowing that we have gaps between semesters.

Professor Styles mentioned that CARES provided a GoReact program. Students don't have to purchase it next semester; students can use that as an external tool.

5. New Business:

AMSL textbooks

1. Professor Styles shared that sometimes there are no textbooks available; therefore, they are working without any textbooks currently, they use everything online. Dr. Nakaji, mentioned that he heard rumors about textbooks being free of charge for students. Is like Joseph was saying about LTI related to the canvas. Is called "there is no books" students have to pay to have access to canvas. Dr. Nakaji asked if they are talking about making a free version

Professor Miner, shared that California is trying to have that for every college class, they will have it for no charge, or students can take the class with minimum charge, which it is big, it is like a movement right now. They are trying to reduce the cost. They are trying to make it accessible and able to take the class by getting rid of books so people don't have to buy books, there is a big push for this. Anything online that is accessible. For ASL they might have to take a different approach, lot of pictures, structure development notes, lecture notes, little vignette movies, it is a lot of work to put it all together. Whatever students have set up and the instructor set up, for students to be observing and the have receptive skills.

2. AMSL 155

Professor Styles, said that regarding The Implication of Deafness, she feels like the book for the old course is focused on the listening or the mouth movement, and that that needs to be changed, the title needs to be changed. The title is called Open your Eyes. This book is better than what we were using currently, we wanted to move into something new. The Deafness, Introduction to Deaf People or something with a positive outlook for deaf for 155; so feel free to share. I would like to have an open discussion for this.

Mrs. Lott asked if we are already having a separate class for that, cultural, and then deafness interpreting class.

Professor Styles explained that the ASL study class program gets an AA degree. 150 and 155; 150 is a cultural part for the deaf, and 155 is about the medical view or social work the deaf deal in that community in the perspective of what the deaf need to learn in regard to the education part of the society. Now the interpreting class, they need to

take that course as well, or simultaneously to the interpreting class. With the interpreting class they have interpreting transitional courses, 245B, specialized something really like interpreting in hospitals. They all connect, but they are different. Now the 155 AMSL I want to change the name, the topic, I don't want deafness. I want the name to be something different, maybe introduction to the deaf culture, or deaf people, if you have ideas, e-mail them to me and will go over.

Mrs. Miner stated that she would like to look overall to various classes before so she can agree as to what should be said in place.

Dr. Nakaji agreed and said that if there is more positive approach, get away from the old book, and thinks it will be more current.

Mr. Harrison, mentioned that the title of the book Deaf Studies could be confusing as to what's the difference, and we want to make sure is clearly identifiable, for example: Deaf Credit, Deaf Game, Deaf World, Introduction to Deafness.

Professor Miner asked regarding the class requirements for AA and for deaf studies if the student wants to become an interpreter, do they have to pick both? the class should not be focused on interpreting it should be focused on the deaf language culture, something like that.

Professor Styles used as an example the book Psychology of Deafness and said that is a bad book. Instead, it should have something positive about the deaf. The language has taken mental health meaning, counseling services, than just focus on the mechanical part, the ear and how the ear functions, and the world aspects. Something more in depth.

Mrs. Lott mentioned that we have deaf culture general classes, and then specialized interpreting like medical, maybe what is missing is a class with deaf people, different identities, Hispanic, Asian deaf, that might be more beneficial, something regarding diversity. Diversity training, that might be good for students. The ASL students can benefit from that.

Dr. Nakaji suggested Mrs. Lott to write a thesis, develop that book with that curriculum that sounds like a great thing. The Diverse deafness, which applies to everyone, not just those who are losing their hearing, the military hearing loss, a book that cover all aspects, something like that will be wonderful. Good topic versus exposure to deafness.

Mrs. Lott stated that would become more recognized, would bring more awareness, and specialized. We need some training regarding deaf blind and other working with other interpreters too.

3. ASL Resources and Tutoring

Professor Styles mentioned that for tutoring she would prefer deaf students. In Gallaudet they have what they call PALS, students sign up for tutoring, for 30 minutes they converse; she wants that for ASL students. Is not easy to show specialized education, because of the 3D aspect where you get that in person, but they have the funds, not Mesa.

Professor Mathis suggested to check with Strong Workforce and see if they can help with this.

Professor Miner said that is good, perhaps we can hire a deaf tutor.

Dr. Nakaji mentioned that it's great that we don't have to work with tutors, we can work with people in the deaf community. Wonder where the Tutoring Center get the money to pay their tutors, they'll be getting \$15 an hour, it's from the services that they'll provide, where the funds will be from the FTE or FT students?

Our tutoring program has the class for instructional. People can sign up for tutoring, we have a class where they can learn, and see where this leads and get someone hired through the tutoring center.

Laura Mathis: if it is related to a career goal, they may be able to do it as an internship or through a work experience class to find out if some students might be interested in tutoring excel and earn a little money, so there is a little benefit there. As you know they'd have to have over 12 credits to get financial aid, they will kill two birds with one stone.

4. AMSL 250 and 255

Interpreting 3 and Interpreting for AMSL 250 and 255, Professor Styles said they been offered in the same semester, which seems odd; there should be interpreting three in the fall, and interpreting 4 in the spring, so they can build from 3 and then go to 4. But right now, it's all thrown at the same time, 3 and 4 in the same semester; students may become overwhelmed. It is too late to make a change, but I am looking at it for next department meeting. Professor Styles suggested Professor Miner to be at the Department meeting to further discuss this.

Mrs. Lott mentioned that 3 faculty members recently retired and that is a concern. Professor Styles said she is writing down the need of hiring ASL, and Interpreting instructors in Program Review; one of each to be hired and trained. In the past there were 4, which is 100%, but now she is alone, the program is under 50%. Right now program review is on hold because of Covid, and then the hiring freeze happened

as well. This means if we get a bid, then we go to the EEO training for the interviewing, I am not involved, but I will when I get trained. I am going to have to talk to the Dean about getting that bid going.

Mesa wants to develop pathways, plus contact the counseling department to know our program to help our students better. That workshop is wonderful it is called Mesa Mixers, where students need to focus on what their interests are, it doesn't have to be interest in that field if they want to have a business in a career, they can take an ESL class, even if it's not related. Because for tax purposes, if they get clients that are deaf, they can now sign language, because he picked up a course well. That would be nice, it's a nice bonus, or dentistry yes, you can take the class, even if you may think it's not related because you can converse with deaf people that come in to get their teeth done worked on, and it would be nice to communicate with them, so the deaf world would love to see that the hearing world tries to connect and develop various ways, that hearing students in various fields can be connected with the deaf in the community; which should be beneficial. This year we're having meetings to try to bridge the gap and

we are crossing our fingers to see the ASL program expanding. The work can be more inclusive, we can have others involved like work-based learning. For the unhealthy stern students train in the hospital setting learning the language which is nice rather than just waiting for the time when they are supposed to get up. For example, in class, I am 35 AMSL 230 where the students are not able to go to the class and learn, now they can. Like an hour they go to observe the teacher and see the various classes, that they can observe and take notes and the next semester before zero to 40. The study interprets as to how they perform, even if they are not interpreters themselves, they don't have to wait until 276 is open and then practice, they can practice now and develop their skills, now I am hoping that pathways will help open that up and get things moving along. Dr. Nakaji said, it sounds like a lot of work for one full time ASL teacher.

Professor Styles said, yes, but I am having these meetings to have you guys involved to get various viewpoints versus just my one input. I don't want them to think that I am making the decisions. I want to have a collective group agreeing with me, this meeting is an opportunity for us to listen, share, and provide feedback.

I would like to invite interpreting students to experience this discussion so they can see a perspective of what's going. I will contact Professor Mathis to ask for her assistance contacting somebody.

6. Announcements:

Mrs. Lott: Denise' wife, Dr. Melanie, is bringing voice interpreters, to Korian_Koko_Thomas, all are welcome to come to this event taking place on May 10, 2021. This will be good for students to see.

Next Meeting: October 2021

7. Adjournment: Dr. Nakaji adjourned the meeting at 2.08 p.m.