

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

November 15, 2002

Members Present: Danny Wyatt, Sallie Sablan, Lynda Rowe, Larry Oney, Lois Gage, Rik Villegas, Kurt Barnes, Melody Actouka (chair and recorder for this meeting)

Presenters Present: Ed Lieberman (Special Education Certificate and Endorsement), Anita Nilmodian (Sign Language Interpreter Certificate)

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m. by Melody Actouka, chair.

Old Business

BSEE IDP Update

Sallie Sablan presented an updated IDP for the Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, reflecting a change in course alpha for CS 105. Following subsequent discussion, it was agreed that the IDP will be further modified to include all languages currently offered in two-semester sequences to fulfill the BSEE language course requirements.

Motion: The BSEE IDP is recommended for approval as modified to add both Carolinian and Spanish two-course sequences to fulfill language requirements. Motion carried (unanimous).

New Business

1. Special Education Endorsement and Certificate Programs

Ed Lieberman presented a description of these proposed programs, to become effective in Spring 2003. The certificate program is intended to serve teacher aides who do not intend to pursue their education towards a bachelor's degree. The endorsement program will serve those who either currently possess or are working towards a bachelor's degree and who will add the Special Education endorsement to their credentials and thus become eligible for PSS certification as special education teachers. The CNMI Public School System has sought NMC's assistance in the training and education of their special education personnel, in part in response to strong encouragement by Federal program personnel.

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Handouts presented: List of courses
Course descriptions
Individual Certificate Program
Special Education Endorsement

Course guides to accompany these programs will be presented in December, at which time the ICP and Endorsement programs will undergo review and recommendations regarding approval.

2. Sign Language Presentation

Anita Nilmodian presented a discussion of the Sign Language Interpreter Certificate program. This program is intended to serve paraprofessionals who will serve as teacher aides and interpreters, not individuals who seek to become regular classroom teachers. Statistics were presented documenting numbers of individuals throughout the Commonwealth who would be expected to benefit from the services of those trained through this program, as well as the paucity of interpreters currently available in the CNMI.

Several members raised concerns regarding potential costs to the college for the operation of this program. Available funding sources may include tuition/fees monies derived from PELL grant and CNMI Scholarship payments, as well as possible Public School System professional development funds.

Handouts presented: Proposed Sign Language Interpreter/Teacher's Aide Certificate Program at Northern Marianas College

ICP
Course Guides

Due to lack of time, course guides will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Next Meetings: November 22 9 – 12 Board Room
November 29 9 –12 Board Room

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.