

MINUTES

Funeral Service Education Advisory Committee

Date: April 27, 2006

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Room 127 Baker-Gaines Central Campus

Recorder: William Thompson

Members present: Mr. A. Sharp, Ms. K. Griffin, Mr. D. Trahan, Mr. M. Herron, Ms. T. Pugh, Ms. E. Willis, Mr. M. Powers, Dr. L. Riddick, Mr. J. Baldwin, Mr. E. Andrews, Mr. A. Rice, Ms. S. Spivey

Guests: Mr. Phil Skeen, York Casket Company
 Ms. Nancy Sahlin
 Dr. Adrian Evans
 Dr. Betty Leslie
 Dr. Yvonne Kennedy

FSE Student: Mr. Nathan Sahlin

Members not present: Ms. Jones, Mr. Lynaum, Ms. Harris, Mr. Pinkard

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Call to order		Order called by Mr. Thompson
Meditation and prayer		Ms. Pugh
Opening remarks		Mr. Thompson expressed appreciation to all attending
Self introduction/roll call		Attendees introduced themselves and identified their professional affiliation
Repast	Casual conversation	
Approval of 11-3-05 minutes	Motion by Mr. Baldwin to accept; second by Mr. Powers	Minutes accepted as written

Remarks – Mr. Skeen	York Casket Company (YCC) proudly partners with BSCC and the FSE program. Through its donation of the YMS Merchandising System, YCC is committed to supporting recruiting and training of BSCC students. YCC anticipates promoting BSCC further by sponsoring training sessions for funeral directors from local areas, initially, and nation wide as the training program develops. Through his travels, Mr. Skeen has met some of BSCC's current students, graduates, and acknowledged their commitment to and accomplishments in the professional arena.
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<p>State Program Review (SPR)</p>	<p>Dr. Evans described the nature, purpose, and methods of a SPR. A rich, beneficial, multi-vocal dialogue representing graduates', students', funeral practitioners', administrators', faculty, and staff viewpoints emerged in response to items identified as program weaknesses. Particular points made were: student motivation related to FSE as a career choice, differences in first- and second-career students; social and economic threats to adult, working students' success; study habits/abilities (time management); negative student morale related to strong focus on nursing in biology courses; national trends in funeral service related to increasing cremation rates, ABFSE funeral director-only curriculum; instructional delivery related to online, on-campus, mixed, and weekend formats; NBE pass rates; pros and cons of summer FSE courses not being taught, including financial aid issues, impact on students' learning and exam performance, allocation of the College's fiscal resources; transfer credits; consideration of programmatic changes, e. g. community support, need and desire for the program, decreasing viability, entrance requirements, inadequate number of FSE faculty, courses available in the common course directory</p> <p>Dr. Leslie represented Dr. Blackledge and offered his input including concerns and issues related to improved enrollment and retention.</p> <p>Dr. Kennedy thanked Mr. Skeen and YCC for supporting BSCC, in general, and the FSE program, in particular. Dr. Kennedy stressed the importance of community members' participation in and partnering with the college. She acknowledged attendees' concern and support for the FSE program and their willingness to participate through "lively" dialogue that strengthens the college's operations. Through a powerful "intensive care" metaphor, Dr. Kennedy acknowledged that "challenges" are before us and that those challenges will be answered to the point of restoring good, even better health than before.</p>
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SPR continued RECOMMENDATIONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a plan to evaluate quality of students entering the FSE program; 2. Develop a mentoring program that connects prospective and current students with owners, managers, and/or employees of funeral homes; 3. Reconvene advisory committee for further discussion and additional recommendations.
Other business	<p>Mr. Thompson requested committee members to contemplate items for placement on the 2006-07 agenda. These items will be considered during the October 2006 meeting. 2006-07 agenda items will likely emerge from the meeting identified in recommendation #3, above.</p> <p>The meeting was informally adjourned.</p>
Tour of facilities	<p>Attendees' toured the merchandising lab featuring the YMS Merchandising System. Many favorable comments were made to its visual appeal and the great benefit it will be of to students, members of the professional community, and the general public. More appropriate lighting and floor covering would enhance its effectiveness.</p>