



VANDERBILT

University Staff Advisory Council

Minutes for Tuesday, January 12, 2010 Sarratt 220

Attendance:

Present

Alley, Jean
Amos, Stan
Attack, Becky
Bailey, Bill
Banks, Diane
Barnett, Lora
Bransford, Chris
Cage, Vickie
Chapman, Angela
Dean, Mary Ann
DiGiovanna, Sheri
Dixon, Michele
Dubois, Daniel
Fisher, Joe
Fisher, Kristy
Gambill, Jodie
Hiltz, Shirley
Houseman, Andrea
Jackson, Nancy
Johnson, Stacy
Kiely, Kay
Koval, Kristin
Krueger, Anna Kathleen
McGrath, Jason
McKee, Brenda
McLeod, Laura
Patterson, JoAnn
Pickert, Don
Pruitt, Don
Renshaw, Grace
Reynolds-Barnes, Deborah
Rhodes, Katherine
Richter, Andy
Seezen, Karen
Sheldon, Brenda
Smeltzer, Mike
Soxayachanh, Olivia
Stanard, Ray
Steward, Dan
Street, JJ
Stuart, Kate
Trenary, Carlos
Villager, Nyla
Vincz, Janiece
Walker, Bryon
Wall, Andrea
Watson-Wienzetzl, Myrna
Whaley, Elizabeth
Whatley, Luci
White, Lolita
Wilson, Cliff
Wyatt, Michelle

Absent, sent regrets

Armstrong, Terri
Formont, Jamie
Holcroft, Nancy
Johnson, Faye
Kendrick, Stacy
Lang, Melanie
Latham, Vickie
McMeen, Ben
Moore, Kenny
Norfleet, Lydia
Smith, Susanne
Suttles, Todd
Tucker, Phillip
Whitlow, Cathy
Cribbs, Chris
Watts, Katie
Webb, Mary

Absent

Boglin, Harriett
Brake, Alyssa
Brassil, John
Collins, Greg
Fagan, Shawn
Franklin, Keith
Jackson, John
King, Sue
Martin, Ashley
McClure, Cheryl
McCurry, Barry
Owens, Ann Marie
Palmer, Dave
Pepper, Ronnie
Pryor, Jessica
Reed, Dylan
Smith, Donna
Soren, Carol
Steine, Cindy
Strohl, Sandy
Thompson, Molly
Wenzell, Alison
Williams, Tara

Guests: Jerry Fife, Cliff Joyner, and Melissa Wocher

Speakers: Lucy Whatley and Jan Rosemergy

8:30 a.m. President Diane Banks called the meeting to order.

Minutes: The minutes of the December meeting were unanimously approved.

Committee Reports

Membership: Andy Richter introduced and welcomed the following newly appointed members: Janiece Vincz, HR processing, Group 4, Grace Renshaw, Law School, Group 15, John Jackson, VUPD Group 27. The Membership Committee is conducting elections to fill 3 current vacancies. Andy reminds members that it is not too late to join a standing committee. They are currently doing preliminary work for new elections in May so please think about re-election if you are in an even numbered group. New members were welcomed by the council with a round of applause.

Events: Andrea Wall noted that there is nothing new to report.

Communication: Chairs Carolos Trenary and Kristin Koval reported that more updates to the webpage were made and that they are looking at ways to improve the page such as adding news and events to homepage so they are more visible.

Rules and Administration: Chair Bill Bailey noted that there is nothing new to report.

Staff Life: The staff life committee Chair Kathy Rhodes reported that the committee looked at by-laws for staff life and its purpose and are now refocusing their commitments on the issues/concerns of staff. Their new goal in improving staff life is to promote staff training opportunities: continuing education, basic refresher courses or any type of education that would benefit staff life as a whole.

University Standing Committees

Benefits Committee: No report

Traffic Committee: No report

Athletics: Cliff Wilson reported that the committee met December 11th and was introduced to their new committee chair, Karen Harris. David Williams and Lucius Outlaw reported or led discussions on the following: The loss of three academic counselors due to salary issues. The committee discussed improving retention and job satisfaction. The academic report of athletic teams was presented and GPAs reviewed. Vanderbilt athletes are not only gifted athletically; but academically, carrying high GPAs. The committee will meet two times during spring semester, and a third meeting will be scheduled if needed. Current agenda items are: the NCAA mtg in January, the Athletics Committee budget review, the Athletic Conference in the spring, revenues and ongoing academic report information which will include discussion of the new SEC contract.

New Business

There was no new business.

Guest Speakers

8:45 Lucy Whatley – Commodore Cards

The Commodore card office, located at 184 Sarratt Student Center is in the process of re-carding the university. They have successfully given new cards to the undergraduate and graduate student body, and now it is time for the staff and faculty. Re-carding will take place mid-January to mid-February in the Commodore office. You will be notified by email of your designated times. These will also be posted in MyVU and on the Commodore Card website. It is a relatively quick process – it only takes a couple of minutes. You will need to turn in your old id card and will have to have a new picture made.

Athletics provided stickers to apply to new cards so you will not have to procure those. Balances will transfer automatically, as will key access for broad areas. For regular academic buildings, your access will transfer automatically. Areas that have unique card swipe systems involving interior doors, such as Engineering, ITS, and VUPD - we will instruct you as to who you need to see to get your card re-keyed for your interior door. If you have a key system that we don't know about yet, you will need to contact The Card office at TheCommodoreCard.edu so we can arrange to give you a card reader.

If you recently received a new card with the new logo, you do not need another card. If you want to stop in today on the way out, you can do it today.

Vendors/suppliers will be contacted during the summer to get them re-carded, as well.

8:55 Jan Rosemergy, Director of Communication for the Kennedy Center

http://kc.vanderbilt.edu/kennedy_files/VKCOverview1-10.ppt

Jan Rosemergy (a past president of USAC from the mid 1980s) informed the council about the extensive work of the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center (VKC) which is dedicated to solving the mystery of development and developmental disabilities.

Disability is not rare. The term “developmental disabilities” covers a wide array of areas including autism, delays in communication, ADD, hyper activity, cancer survivors (i.e. lasting cognitive effects of cancer treatment), and learning disabilities.

The VKC mission is to improve the quality of life for all who suffer the disruption of typical development. The Center has always conducted research on typical development in order to understand atypical development. Core Values include discovery scholars with a social conscience....who not only discover, but transfer new knowledge into practice.

The Center accomplishes its mission through:

1. Discovery, research – ways to intervene and improve
2. Model support services – programs that can be replicated elsewhere
3. Training students at all levels
4. Training professionals by partnering with community, state organizations, and families

The VKC includes the Intellect and Developmental Research Center – IDDRC. One of the original 12 founded during President Kennedy; now there are 14.

VKC is also a University Center for excellence, part of a national network of 67 centers. The Center was founded as part of Peabody but now is a university wide interdisciplinary center, does not belong to particular school but works across interdisciplinary lines. Close to 200 faculty from 20 different departments study topics from genes, brain, and behavior to intervention, family support, communities, and public policies.

The VKC includes TRIAD (treatment and research institute for autism spectrum disorders) and Mind (a leadership, educational, neurological training camp).

The VKC belongs to an elite group of research centers, the AUCD Network (Association of University Centers on Disability).

The role of the Kennedy Center's Research is to make positive differences to family/lives by studying:

1. Nervous System Development
2. Impact of Disabilities across the life span
3. Cognitive Processes and educational interventions
4. Mental health research and interventions (schizophrenia, depression)

Kennedy Center also has members of rare diseases clinical research.

IDDRC Research support core services available to VU faculty who are VKC members include:

- Admin services
- Basic neuroscience services
- Statistics and methodology
- Clinical neuroscience
- Participant recruitment

When faculty members receive research grants, the Kennedy Center supports their research with assistance with brain scans, etc.

Ways family can become research partners include:

1. StudyFinder and Research Family Partners link on the Kennedy Center site. Criteria and contact info is available on that site.
2. Families register to say they're interested in taking part. They are invited where appropriate. Participation in research is always voluntary.

Research Training is administered by the Kennedy Center which has graduate students involved in research though the Center doesn't award degrees.

1. Behavioral scientists: First doctoral level research training in the country
2. Life span development
3. Bio-behavioral intervention

The Kennedy Center is a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities: UCEDD grounded in what families really need:

1. Focus on systems change
2. Only one of a few that have all three: IDDRC, UCEDD and LEND program
3. Community Advisory Council

UCEDD Areas of Emphasis include:

1. Education and early intervention
2. Health and mental health

3. Supports for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families
4. Recreation and the arts
5. With next 5 years of funding they will include employment

The Kennedy Center also offers:

- Family Outreach Center: relocated to 5th fl Med Arts building: a single place where a family with a member who has a disability can go. It offers:
 - Sibling programs
 - Parent-to-parent support group: families united network
 - Britt Henderson training series for educators (to include in schools)
- Social work Services at no cost
- Reading Clinic: help struggling readers learn to read. Clinic is unique because it works with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. Tutors are special education students at Peabody College who will be future teachers
- Behavior analysis clinic serves children with developmental problems and behavior problems (serious – self injury, aggressive/violent behavior)
- Next Step at VU
 - VU students who have intellectual disabilities
 - Certification program for students
 - 6 students ages 18-29, taking classes and receiving life skills training (debit card, how to shop, etc)
 - Career training classes at TN Tech – collaborative
 - Internships for them
 - Best Buddies activities – core group of 5 – great experience for other VU students
 - Support in transition to employment (Award winning program)
 - Partnership with TN Council on Developmental disabilities – all possible from grant given by TN Council on Dev Disabilities.
 - Model that can be adapted at other universities around country
- Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disabilities Clinic at VU
 - Only one other program in the country! This serves a huge need.

The Kennedy Center does not run clinics in Medical Center but facilitates and supports. The VKC also offers several camps, a VU Autism Clinic, and programs (including Hispanic Outreach Program, Access Nashville, Disabilities, religion and spirituality). For more information, please visit the website www.vkc.vanderbilt.edu and sign up for their free quarterly newsletter or electronic newsletter and view their calendar for nation-wide related events. The site also offers many free products as well as research conferences and workshops – most of which are free of charge.

Jan passed out flyers for council members to take back to their departments.

Jan welcomed questions from the council:

Q: You mentioned the word stigma. What advice would you give us to help address that?

A: Remember that people with disabilities are just like the rest of us. They have same aspirations: want to have friends, live independently, goals, part of a faith community, want jobs, etc. We have tools to assist you. We are often afraid of doing the wrong thing, but there are tools available to help. Ex, someone in a wheelchair might be more comfortable if you sit down rather than hover over them. ODC has been a real leader in providing disability sensitive language.

As more folks with disability are included in community, they no longer seem different and we all become more comfortable. Ask if they need assistance, then let them direct you.

Q: What is William's syndrome?

A: It's a rare genetic syndrome. Characteristics are extreme sociability, slightly different facial appearance but other than that – you might not know they have it. It is the opposite of autism. They have a lot of fears, phobias, often intellectual difficulty with special ability (may not be able to walk across campus without assistance, yet be an opera singer who performs in 14 different languages all over the world). We are learning a lot about it by having music camp...doing brain imaging, working with families, exploring fears and anxieties, developing interventions for them, etc.

Q: You said the Next Step Program at Vanderbilt has six students. Will it grow?

A: Yes, probably won't ever be very large. The idea is that this program will stay and grow...but start with what we have support for. After completing a two year program, students will be employed. Ex. The Children's hospital has a very successful program which started small. There's a real need for vocational training that follows HS so these individuals become tax payers like the rest of us and can enjoy all benefits of independence (if not full independence, as much as possible).

At the Center we have lots of opportunities to help.

10:00 a.m. Diane Banks thanked Cliff Joyner and Jerry Fife, and Melissa Wochoer, Luci Whatley and Jan Rosemergy and the meeting was adjourned.

The next USAC meeting will be on February 9 in Sarratt 220, the Rand Function Room. Mark Wait, Dean of Blair School of Music, and Terry Hallquist, Director of Vanderbilt University Theatre, will be our speakers.

**Reminder: All meeting times and locations are posted on the Staff Council website
<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/usac/next.html>*