

Paralegal Studies Advisory Committee Meeting
Thomas Edison Campus – Bldg U, Room 109
Friday, October 10, 2014

In Attendance: Jim Heron, guest member; Beth Prather, Prather & Swank; David McCormick; Mary Conwell, Paralegal Studies Coordinator of Florida SouthWestern State College; Dr. Joseph Kramp, Director of Foundation Development FSW; and Jill De Valk, FSW.

Online Courses for Spring 2015: Introduction to Paralegal Studies and Legal Research & Writing II are in the process of development to be offered online. They will roll out in the spring 2015 semester. Litigation and Torts were offered online the current fall semester. Offering courses online will expand the program outside our five county region. Ten credits must remain traditional to remain in compliance with the American Bar Association. The Paralegal Internship, Capstone, Family Law, and Legal Research & Writing I courses will continue to be taught in a traditional manner.

New Full-time PLA/Business professor: Professor Conwell is on the committee to hire a full-time paralegal and business professor for the spring 2015 semester. The position required the applicants to possess both a JD and an MBA. The committee will begin reviewing applicants soon.

American Association for Paralegal Education Conference: Professor Conwell will attend the AAFPE National Conference in Nevada in November. AAFPE is the premiere association in the country for paralegal education. Professor Conwell is anticipating her attendance of the workshops and seminars offered during the conference.

Gulf Coast Paralegal Association: The GCPA has been very helpful to the Paralegal Studies Program. The GCPA meets every other month on the Thomas Edison Campus (Lee) and Professor Conwell brings students with her to the meeting. They are also mentoring our students with the paralegal internships.

NALA CP Testing Center: FSW will resume as a testing site for the NALA paralegal certification beginning in spring 2015.

Master Syllabi and Assessment Collection: The adjuncts in the Paralegal Studies Program are using master syllabi and CANVAS shells for ground and online courses to collect the assessment information. The information is reviewed and analyzed before it is entered into Compliance Assist, the software receptacle for FSW's Institutional Effectiveness. Assessment is a nationwide trend and a priority of the Florida legislature.

Regional AAFPE Conference: Professor Conwell is planning on attending the AAFPE Regional Conference in spring 2015 in Oxford, Mississippi home of Ole Miss, University of Mississippi.