**4/28/16 Paralegal Advisory Committee Breakout Minutes**

* **Transition to Online Courses**

Due to student demand, online courses were added with the outcome of increased enrollment in the program. The ABA requires 10 hours must be taught traditionally. The following courses will always be taught traditionally: Legal Research and Writing I, Family Law, Paralegal Internship, and Capstone courses.

* **ABA Report and Upcoming Site Visit**

The ABA Reapproval Application was submitted in November 2015 electronically. After the ABA reviews the report they will schedule a site team visit to our campuses, probably within a year.

* **Lambda Epsilon Chi (LEX)**

The Paralegal Club officers last summer were instrumental in establishing the LEX chapter at FSW. LEX is a national academic honor society for paralegal students sponsored by the American Association for Paralegal Educators (AAfPE). Requirements include an overall GPA of 3.25, a GPA of 3.5 in paralegal core courses, and at least 25 credit hours of paralegal core courses completed. Fourteen students qualified and were invited to join LEX in the 2015-16 academic year.

* **Gulf Coast Paralegal Association**

The GCPA continues to assist the paralegal studies students through their mentoring program and review course for the NAWLA certified paralegal exam.

* **FSW Paralegal Club**

The past academic year’s paralegal club officers have been dynamic leaders. Professor Conwell will be giving up her position as Paralegal Club sponsor to Professor Matt Hoffman in the 2016-17 academic year.

* **AAfPE Conferences**

Professor Conwell attended the National AAfPE Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in October 2015 and recently attended the Regional Conference in Ybor City, Florida.

At the recent AAfPE conference, Professor Conwell attended a lecture discussing post-baccalaureate paralegal certificates. Every semester Professor Conwell has students who are career changers with bachelor and master’s degrees who would benefit from a certificate. Her students usually are current paralegals, pre-law school students, public policy students (want to pursue Public Administration, and the remaining students a mixture of goals. FGCU already offers a Legal Studies baccalaureate degree.

Another workshop Professor Conwell attended gave several ideas for hands-on paralegal activities. Suggestions included having staff meeting scenarios where everyone contributes and an assignment to develop a handbook for practical experience.

Also at the conference, there was a discussion regarding assessments where accrediting agencies are looking for the collection of data tied to student learning outcomes. The paralegal studies program already has a collection system in place with the use of CANVAS shells.

Completing a paralegal internship is a required course in the Paralegal Studies program. There was a discussion at the AAfPE Conference regarding law firms who are not wanting to offer veterans of the military internships and jobs for fear that they have posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

The paralegal job market is bright compared to the future of law school graduates due to the paralegal’s expanding role in small law firms.

Some law firms are creating the position of E-discovery specialist. Perhaps e-discovery should be incorporated into the paralegal courses.

**Marketing of the Paralegal Studies Program**

The program is not effectively marketed and with the availability of online courses