

## **10/9/2020 Paralegal Studies, Architecture, Construction and Engineering Technologies Breakout Meeting Minutes**

**In Attendance:** Mary Conwell, Matt Hoffman, John Montoya, Sandi Towers, Elizabeth Schott, Al Nault, Michael Rubinaccio, and Jill De Valk.

**Textbook Revisions:** Textbooks for next academic year starting Fall 2021, need to be selected by the spring 2021 semester.

**FSW Libraries:** Faculty Librarian Bill Shuluk is the library liaison for the School of Business and Technology. If you have any new resources that you would like the library to offer your students, please contact Professor Conwell.

### **Emphasis on Boosting Enrollment:**

- ABA Guidelines are now allowing 9 credit hours of legal specialty synchronous courses to be taught via Zoom, Webex, or similar technology as traditional courses. The following courses were traditional previously: Family Law, Legal Research and Writing I, Paralegal Internship, Paralegal Capstone. The change by the ABA was based on Jury consultant Kristine Farmer's dissertation on the effectiveness of online versus traditional course. She found no difference in the effectiveness of teaching in those modes.
- We would like to market throughout Florida that all courses may be completed through the online, the live online, or traditional modalities. We will be contacting the area high schools in the spring to recruit for students. Please let Professor Conwell know any further ideas for increasing enrollment.

**Covid 19:** Professors related their experiences with students were positive regarding wearing face coverings.

**Modalities:** Professor Conwell asked if there are any comments regarding using Zoom to teach courses or should we continue with traditional ground classes also. Professor Towers commented that Zoom works like a charm. Professor Schott commented that the courses that have hands on components are taught better in the traditional way. Courses in the Architectural and Civil Engineering degrees are more hands on.

**Certificates:** There are Cares - Rapid Credentialing grant funds available for short term certificates. The Paralegal Real Estate Certificate qualifies for this money. This semester the students in Law Office Management are also completing an eDiscovery certificate that was paid by the Schulz grant. Professor Montoya commented that they are looking into offering the AutoCad or Revit certification.

**Guest Speaker Al Nault, Advisor for the Architectural, Construction, Engineering Technology and Computer degrees:** Advises and recruits for these programs. Currently virtually recruiting and has limited face to face contact with students. Announced there is a Zoom event on November 4<sup>th</sup> for the Lee County area. Explained that there are 2 versions of certificates. The college credit certificate which leads to AS degrees and industry certifications such as AutoCad, Revit, and the Leed Green certification. Offering both types of certifications helps with FSW's completion rates.

Professor Montoya commented that there is a potential for the integration of industry certifications to his programs.

Please remind your students that Spring 2021 registration starts on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Concerns, Suggestions, or Complaints:**

- The next Legal Studies Club meeting is scheduled on October 15<sup>th</sup>. There has been interest in the club and also interest in the AS Paralegal Studies degree from SLS 1515 students in Professor Towers' classes.
- Regarding promoting the Bachelor degrees – Professor Montoya asked if students have to apply if they are current students? They have to apply but the fee is waived.  
Working on agreement between FSW AS Architecture degree with FGCU BS in Construction Management degree.
- The Cybersecurity course has potential, but is sidelined this semester since only one student enrolled in it.
- Reminder to send Bill Shuluk, Faculty Library liaison your wish list of resources like databases and eBooks
- Comment regarding sick students – Tell students if you are sick, please stay home.

Professor Conwell adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.

*Meeting minutes interpreted and reported by Jill De Valk*