

Update on the activities of the Child Care Task Force, 2009-10

Faculty Senate Meeting, May 10, 2010

CCTF has met two times this year. The first meeting kick-off meeting had full attendance. There we determined to pursue to courses of action. The first involves the short-term solution of converting the Early Learning Program, which is now a NAYCE accredited preschool into a drop-off center for students, staff, and faculty.

Currently, the ELP building is licensed to take drop-offs of children ages 3-14 from 6pm-8pm. We hope to heavily advertise that fact by the Fall semester. ELP Board President Sherry Pesino and Facilities Manager Richard Bachoo have taken steps toward improving the Early Learning Program facility and there is a plan in place. CCTF has discussed using this facility as a drop-off site for children ranging from ages infant to school age. CCTF is pursuing a lease, presumably with the ELP, for the facility through an RFP for use of the site as a day care and/or drop-off site.

In the meantime, the license will be turned over to the Director (currently it is held by the Board President) before June 30th. The ELP is currently licensed for ages 3 – 14 and would need to secure the licensing for the Birth – three year olds. The ELP would then provide the necessary supervision. The ELP is revising its by-laws to reflect a new mission beyond its current one as a preschool for children ages 3-4 and create a drop-in center in addition to the existing NAYCE –accredited program. A hold-up is the lack of Board members who can attend meetings, so the Board does not currently have the number of present voters to make the change.

The long term plan includes making child care issues and family-friendly campus policies part of the university's master plan through a documented report that discusses the campus need and possibilities for improved child care, ideally 5-day a week drop-off center. We want to examine ECSU, which has an excellent young children's lab program in place, which is attached to a department. We are collecting information and data to support our report. As part of this, Fiona Pearson (Sociology) is directing a campus survey to determine student needs. This is in process with the hopes of increasing the number of responders to the survey.

A CCSU babysitting website designed through the CCW Work-Life Balance Committee should be running by Fall 2010. It will be part of a Work-Life Balance website/ portal (part of the CCSU website).

Plans for the summer 2010 and next year (2010-11) include:

- Developing and implementing a plan to advertise/ market ELP drop-off center from 4-8pm for children ages 3 and up.
- Identifying and applying for possible grants to fund staffing for the drop-in center.
- Committee members will continue to collect data and information toward a comprehensive and documented report about the need for campus childcare. They will forward this information to committee chairs.

