



FIU Embrace
External Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 19, 2019

External Advisory Council Members

Evelyn Alvarez (via phone), Regional Operations Manager – Southern Region
Cuong Do, Executive VP and Head of Global Strategy, Samsung Electronics America
Anthony Gonzalez, Chief of Surgery, Baptist Hospital of Miami
Brenda Lampon, Area Six Director, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Albert Lopez, CEO of the Americas BDO USA, LLP
Luis Navas, Senior Partner, Global Governance Advisors
Ora Prilleltensky (via phone), Clinical Assistant Professor (Retired), University of Miami
Andrew Sagona, Founder, Disability Rights Law Association
Nina Sinisterra, Director of Marketing, Conviva Care Solutions
Milton Vescovacci, Shareholder, Polsinelli PC

Attendees

Akuil Agrawal, Agrawal Family Foundation
Mavara Agrawal, FIU
Damaris Albrecht, Miami Dade County Public Schools
Nicole Attong, Director, FIU Embrace
Santiago Bolivar, Dan Marino Foundation
Mayte Capo, Program Manager, FIU Embrace
J.J. Colindres, FIU Embrace PLUS Alumni

Deborah Dietz, DIG

Alberto Fernandez, Miami Dade County Public Schools

Kenneth Furton, Provost and Chief Operating Officer, FIU

Dora Galecio, Administrative Coordinator, FIU Embrace

Andres Gil, Vice President of Research, Dean of the Graduate School, FIU

Dorcas Gonzalez, FIU Embrace

Yolangel "Yogi" Hernandez, Vice Provost, Population Health and Wellbeing, FIU

Ciara Khan, Program Specialist, FIU Embrace

Jacob Porter, FIU Embrace

Ondina Rodriguez, Miami Dade County Public Schools

Easlande Suazo, Manager of Administrative Services, FIU Embrace

Krystal Sutherland, Sr. Program Manager, FIU Embrace

Rozeena Taylor, Program Coordinator, FIU Embrace

Kourtney Wilson, Administrative Specialist, FIU Embrace

Call to Order

The Vice Chair Mr. Vescovacci convened the meeting of the FIU Embrace External Advisory Council at 2:12pm on August 19, 2019 at Modesto Maidique Campus, MARC Pavilion in Miami Florida, and invited the Council and members of the audience to introduce themselves.

Review and Acceptance of Minutes

Mr. Vescovacci asked for a motion to approve the minutes from April 22, 2019. Dr. Gonzalez put forth the first motion and Mr. Navas seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved by the Council as presented.

Council Update

Dr. Yogi Hernandez Suarez announced that she has returned to the University and is currently the Vice Provost of Population Health and Wellbeing and Associate Dean of Clinical and Community Affairs at Florida International University. Given that Dr. Hernandez Suarez's is now an FIU employee, she has relinquished both her

membership and position of chair and has recommended that elections are held to fill her position.

Mr. Vescovacci announced that the next meeting scheduled for October 21, 2019 will be the Council's Annual Meeting and as such the election of officers will be held and staggered terms implemented. In preparation for the next meeting, Mr. Vescovacci asked the Council members to select their desired staggered terms. They also indicated that the three-active committees; education, employment, and medical will begin meeting.

Legislative Update

Dr. Gil stated that there is no change in funding for FIU Embrace and the University has not received any request for information. Dr. Gil also mentioned that the University is currently preparing for the next legislative session.

FIU Embrace Program Update and 2019-2020 Areas of Focus

1. FIU Embrace Law

Ms. Attong informed the Council that Dean Mason was not able to attend the meeting; however, she submitted the following report. Two hundred and seventy families were served through the FIU Embrace Law clinic and sixty-nine of those cases were referred to community partners or provided the necessary counseling. There are currently, two hundred and one cases open and are being actively engaged.

2. FIU Embrace Medical

Dr. Gil informed the Council that the contract with Citrus Health Network (CHN) has been executed to provide medical services. Citrus is an existing partner of the University and this agreement is an expansion of our existing partnership. The physical plant is currently under construction and its' projected open date is December 1st, 2019. Mr. Do asked how or if the delay of the build-out would affect the medical services that are currently being rendered. Dr. Gil indicated that the transition would not have any effect on the services and depending on when the program transitions, there may be an overlap of services by continuing services at FIU and establishing the new practice through CHN.

3. LIFE & PLUS

Ms. Attong stated that the re-design and branding of the program has been completed. The new name of the program is FIU Embrace Education. The length of

the program has been expanded to an additional year; therefore, it is now three years, we have successfully launched residential, strengthened the academic component and implemented the independent living seminars, and we are working with faculty to complete the digital credentials. We are also in the process of seeking approval to be recognized as a Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program. Dr. Hernandez Suarez asked what does becoming certified mean for FIU Embrace. Ms. Attong explained that it opens up the opportunity for grant funding and financial aid for students and families. We are also working on having the mentor component of the program certified. . Dr. Hernandez Suarez asked, if all of the new resources for the students would increase their debts or are grants available. Ms. Attong stated that she is only referring to grants. In addition, Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is also providing students with the required funding for the program.

Dr. Hernandez Suarez asked how will badges and the new certificated be explained to employers. Provost Furton indicated that the University is currently conducting an inventory of all its certificate programs and stated a focus is on stackable badges. Ms. Attong is working with Bridgette Cram who oversees the badging process for the University and will ensure that all of the badges available to the FIU Embrace students are in line with the University's requirements.

Ms. Attong stated that the program staff has developed an employee toolkit and is in the process of developing a leadership training. Also we are working to identify employers/internship sites in each area of specialization. Ms. Attong explained that even though the program is becoming a certified program, Mr. Sagona asked for the timeline between submission of the application and approval. Ms. Attong indicated that it would take approximately four – six weeks. Mr. Sagona also questioned if the change in the program designation will affect funding. Dr. Gil indicated that the funding for this program is contained within the overall FIUnique budget and we are in the process of launching FIU Embrace's research portfolio and possibly hiring a Director of Research. Funding has been set aside for research and we are pushing for the Fall to initiate the research.

Mr. Vescovacci asked how many other universities offer a certified program like the one that we are seeking to obtain. Ms. Attong stated that there's approximately forty universities that have the program, but all programs are different, and students and their families must decide which program best fits them and their needs. Ms. Sinisterra asked if the program is at capacity and Ms. Attong's response was no and stated that there are seventeen students enrolled in the LIFE program and fourteen students in FIU Embrace Education program. There are currently fourteen slots available for admission into the program. Dr. Gonzalez asked what is happening

with the LIFE program. Ms. Attong stated that program is sunsetting. That means no new students will be admitted to the program and all currently enrolled students can continue the program through graduation. Dr. Gonzalez asked could a current LIFE student apply for the Education program. Ms. Attong responded yes. Dr. Gonzalez asked about the age qualification for the FIU Embrace Education program. Ms. Attong informed him that the age for the program is eighteen to twenty-eight years. Applicants and must have exited high school and start the program by age twenty-five.

New Business

1. Day Program

Ms. Sutherland indicated that the Day Program is on target and the last components for the Snoezelen rooms have arrived. She also indicated that the installation is in the process of being scheduled. Following the installation of the equipment, the staff would be trained on how to utilize the therapy rooms.

Adjournment

Mr. Vescovacci requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Navas put forward a motion to adjourn and Dr. Gonzalez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 3:12pm.