

Professional Council Minutes

10/10/14

Attendees: Pat Chimenti, Jessica Baker, Michael Scott, Logan Halley, Lauren Little, Gail Smoker, Liz Ferris, Beth Brockman, Chad Beanblossom and Cherie Dolehanty

Chad welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Pat Chimenti, a part time counselor at IU East. Pat discussed *Helping Students in Distress*, a document developed by the Behavioral Consultation Team at IUE and modeled after IUPUI's structure. IUE has more limited resources; it isn't realistic to expect that one part time counselor can manage all IUE student crises in a timely manner, so the committee needs to empower everyone to know what to do.

- The document outlines guidelines and procedures for assisting students in distress. Pat stressed the importance of protecting confidentiality. Since voicemails and emails create a record of information, and can breach confidentiality, please contact a team member and ask that they contact you. Pat is hoping to develop a secure web page to facilitate this communication, but right now the best approach is to contact Mary Blakefield by phone or in person to report/discuss the situation.
- Be sure to acknowledge the student's feelings and expressions. Don't think that you have to solve the situation, or even understand it, but it is important to be present with the student to help them feel heard. More specifics are available in the document.
- Note that online counseling is not offered, but direct any concerns about online students to Mary Blakefield and she and the team will work on finding resources for distance ed students.

Chad announced that the Book fair is set for Oct. 22, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm in the Whitewater lobby. Ads are out on campus already. There's a web site with information about it as well.

Beth announced the upcoming OneBook Events and reminded the group that Matt Dilworth has agreed to make personalized Christmas ornaments as a fundraiser for Professional Council.

Liz promoted an information session about the Peace Corps, also tied in with the OneBook event on October 21st, 11:00 am - 12:15 pm in Springwood 205.

The meeting adjourned at 11:38 am.