

Child, Family, & Education Studies Department  
Annual Advisory Counsel Meeting

May 14, 2025

12:00PM



Attendees:

Amanda Andrade (CFES Department Chair)  
Angelica Toledo (CFES Department Dean)  
Brigette Thompson (CFES Department Professor)  
Elvia Banuelos (CFES Department Professor)  
Kay Manning (CFES Department Professor)  
Lacey Evangelista (CFES Department Professor)  
Michelle Benjamin (CFES Department Professor)  
Maria Rivas (CFES Department Professor)  
Maribel Soriano (CFES Department Professor)  
Nancy Duran (CFES Department Professor)  
Rokey Rahman (CFES Department Professor)  
Alexandra Chanax (CFES Department Secretary)  
Marsie Mendibles (CFES Department Instructional Aide)  
Aimee Arreygue (CSUDH)  
Ancelma Sanchez (CDCLA)  
Frances Avila  
Dr. L Erika Saito (UMass Global)  
Erin Ashley (UMass Global)  
Evelin Hernandez  
Graciela Ceja  
Jessica Dennis (CSULA)  
Barbara K. Ige Ph. D. (Woodcraft Rangers)  
Jessica Hernandez (VivaPlay)  
Joni Meyers (CELA)  
Jorge Ramirez (Pacific Oaks)  
Karla Martinez (Hope st. Family Center)

Kimberely Alcantar (CCC)  
Marcia Cagigas (CDC)  
Monica Rollins (Rooted A Wellness Collective)  
Norma Amezcua (MAOF)  
Sarai Vasquez (TRLA)  
Sasha Canales (TNTP)

### **Introductions**

Amanda Andrade, the department chair, welcomes attendees to the Child Family and Education Studies (CFES) Advisory meeting for the spring 2025 semester. Lacey Evangelista, a full-time faculty member for 10 years, introduces herself and requests participants to add their organization names to their Zoom profiles. The agenda includes ELAC general updates, department updates, and information about new certificates.

### **Child and Family Studies Update**

Amanda provides an update on the Child and Family Studies department's activities and challenges. The department served over 4,000 students in the fall and nearly 3,900 in the spring. Recent initiatives include an apprenticeship program grant with Woodcraft Rangers, the completion of the first accelerated program cohort, and expanded contract education partnerships. Amanda also highlights the department's focus on serving Spanish-speaking students through the "LOTE" (East ELAC Language Other Than English) programming. A new fee policy requiring prompt payment for classes is introduced, but Amanda emphasizes that financial aid options like FAFSA and the California Dream Act are available to help students cover costs.

### **Addressing College Enrollment and Funding Challenges**

Amanda discusses several challenges facing the college, including bot enrollments taking up spots meant for real students and exploiting financial aid. The college plans to implement a fee payment policy to address this issue. Amanda also explains the new student-centered funding formula (SCFF), which will change how the college receives funding based on student demographics and success rates. Additionally, she mentions challenges with AI use in classrooms, difficulties in getting students back on campus, and the need to improve the enrollment and registration system to make it more user-friendly for new students. Dean Toledo emphasized the ongoing issues that students are facing and ELAC strategies to support ongoing changes.

### **CFES Lab Services Overview**

Marsie provides an overview of the CFES lab's activities and services. The lab offers tutoring, workshops, and resources for students, including flexible hours and online options. They host events like a Banned Book Club and lesson plan workshops to build community and support students. Marsie also mentions their involvement with the apprenticeship program and the need for practicum sites. She encourages partners to reach out if they can offer placement opportunities for students.

### **Amanda Outlines Academic Year Focus**

Amanda outlines five focus areas for the department's upcoming academic year. These include developing dual language education certificates, supporting PK-3 educators, offering more courses in Spanish, expanding work-based learning opportunities, and revising certificate programs to align with new permit requirements.

### **Child Development Program Challenges**

In the meeting, Jessica Dennis, Chair of the Department of Child and Family Studies at Cal State LA, discussed the challenges the department is facing due to budget deficits and hiring freezes. She mentioned the development of the PK 3 credential, which is currently on hold, and the need to encourage students to pursue the multiple subject credential. Jessica also expressed interest in facilitating transfer opportunities for students. Marcia, the director of the Child Development Center at ELAC, highlighted the challenges of staffing and enrolling in their program. Dr. Saito, the director of strategic partnerships at UMass Global, discussed their interest in the dual language certificate and the pathway into their bachelor's program. Ancelma expressed concerns about federal funding affecting their infants and toddlers' program and the need for advocacy. The conversation ended with a call for continued support from professors at Elac for sending their students to their centers.

### **Early Childhood Education Challenges Discussed**

The advisory committee discusses challenges in early childhood education, including enrollment issues, staffing difficulties, and the impact of political turmoil on students and families. Angelica, the Dean of Child Family Education Studies, highlights the department's efforts to support students through various initiatives despite funding cuts and recruitment challenges. Jorge from Pacific Oaks Children's School invites everyone to a panel discussion on recruitment, particularly focusing on males in the classroom.

The meeting emphasizes the importance of practical skills for educators, such as being able to sing and be silly with children without relying on technology.

### **Collaborative Partnerships and Professional Development**

The meeting concludes with several participants sharing their experiences and suggestions. Joni from SELA offers to coordinate workshops for students on topics like reading to children and science experiments. Angelica announces the planned opening of a southeast campus in fall 2026 and mentions available daycare providers for students. Sarai from Woodcraft Rangers praises their partnership with Elac for staff training and suggests incorporating AI technology in classroom instruction. Norma from the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation introduces herself and expresses interest in supporting teachers' professional development. The meeting ends with Amanda encouraging ongoing collaboration and promising to share resources via email.