

Pen-International
Meeting with DeLaSalle University-College of Saint Benilde
October 5, 2001
Manila, Philippines
<http://www.csb.dlsu.edu.ph>

Attending: Techie Benitez-Dela Torre, Robert Davila, James DeCaro, and William Clymer.

1. General background of Saint Benilde Deafness Program.
 - a. 93 Students are currently enrolled in the program
 - i. An entrance exam is used to try and measure competence of students. They have encountered difficulties in attempting to determine the correct mix of student competencies to insure success at college.
 - ii. Students mostly from Manila. Cost to attend is a major factor in predicting where future students will come from. Those whose families live in Manila have housing and therefore lower costs.
 - iii. 26 faculty at the college, all part-time except the director.
 1. Part-time salary is almost equal to full time pay. Teachers get involved in student activities.
 2. Approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of the faculty provides counseling and other services.
 3. $\frac{3}{4}$ are in the classroom.
 4. Of the 26 faculty, four or five have advanced degrees.
2. Mandate for the school for the deaf came from the college administration. They wanted to offer a school for the deaf within CSB. The goal was and remains to create a deaf school for poor children.
 - a. When they received word they were to establish the school, they had no idea of what to do.
3. Of the 200 students who have enrolled in St. Benilde's deafness program since it was founded in 1991, 93 are currently attending the school. 17 students are in the "regular" program. (Notes not clear on this point).
 - a. 20% of students are in the pre-college program.
4. CSB has an outreach program during the summer.
5. Four years ago, a woman from Gallaudet with a specialty in linguistics worked at CSB in the deafness program.
6. In 1995 they thought perhaps they could start producing teachers of the deaf. However, the students' dream was to simply get jobs.

- a. They started a deaf studies program and teacher training programs.
7. The new goals for CSB deafness program are:
 - a. Deaf Studies
 - b. Teacher Training
 - c. Content and Professional Skills Training
 - d. In the Philippines changes to college programs cannot occur without formal governmental approval.
8. The previous program was too heavy on deafness and not enough on skills.
 - a. Now they would like to focus on employable skills.
9. When the OK is received for changing the program, three levels of education will be offered.
 - a. Pre-College
 - b. Certificate – Employment skills
 - c. Diploma – Degree will match government requirements. Graduates will be ready to be a leader in deaf community.
10. “I have a role in helping others” will be the philosophy of the program for the deaf.
11. A degree program, within a trimester system will take 3 to 3 ½ years; with pre-college experience, it may take 4 to 4 ½ years.
12. “School of Deaf Education and Special Studies” is now the name of the program.
13. The Philippine School for the Deaf is very near CSB.
14. When deaf students come to St. Benilde they are surprised about the challenges of thinking for themselves.
15. Techie’s background is guidance counseling.
 - a. Another counselor is now completing an MA program at Gallaudet.
16. Many graduates from the certificate program are now leaders in the deaf community.
17. Breakdown of Proposed Program (Total of 190 Units)
 - a. Deaf Identity and Culture (33-36 units)
 - b. Language Competence (FSL to English) (Not yet clear)
 - c. Skills for Specialization (1/2 of all units)
 - d. Skills for Leading, Advocating and Organizing (22-36 units)
18. The CSB catalog we have reflects the old system; the new curriculum is better at addressing student’s job related skills.
19. Some interpreters have background in technical departments.

20. NTID *Focus* Magazine was a very valuable resource for Techie as she planned the revision of the program.
21. 50% of students leave without completing a program. Some degree students look down on certificate students.
22. The program for the deaf receives no external funding. If they want to expand they must find external funding.
23. In Manila there are three colleges for the deaf
 - a. Insurance company that offers correspondence education
 - b. SAID (South East Asia Institute for the Deaf), Quizon City
 - c. MCID (Manila Christian Institute for the Deaf??)
 - d. There are about 300+ deaf students in college in Manila
24. Brother Andrew, VP of all DLSU, he had to cancel meeting with us. He set up the college for the deaf.
25. In response to the question, "Do you think the deaf community supports your program"
 - a. The program is the only one that provides large scholarships and is a large program.
 - b. The college always advocated the Filipino sign language.

Submitted by:

E. William Clymer, Coordinator
PEN-International
October 31, 2001

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Attending: 24 Faculty Members, Techie Benitez-Dela Torre, Robert Davila, James DeCaro, and William Clymer.

1. Faculty introduced themselves and indicated their professional responsibility
 - a. English and Economics, Drafting and FSL, Language, Sign Language, Natural Science, Social Services, Sign Language, Psychology, Math and Computers, Counseling, Values Development, Methods of Teaching, PowerPoint, Business Strategies.
2. "What is the biggest challenge to your teaching??"
 - a. Department is so new and things are still unsettled.
 - b. Meet the language needs of all students.
 - c. Freshmen require more management.
 - d. Wish for more skill in student reading skills.
 - e. Language and reading skills. Lag is so large and becomes worse at the post-secondary level.
 - f. CSB tries to focus on the learner.
 - g. Language in all books is English.
 - h. It needs to be recognized that Filipino Sign Language is important.
 - i. It seems that to really change things for students, you need to start at a much earlier age.
 - j. There must be a way to preserve and maintain the Filipino deaf culture and language.
 - k. Are there any older deaf Filipinos in the college to serve as a role model?
 - l. The only place for deaf people to get together is in Churches. Young and old people get along fine in the Church.
 - m. There really is no strong deaf community in the Philippines.
 - i. Church plays a major role in the lives of deaf people.
3. "Interest is a dream, competency is a reality"
4. "Pioneers can become frustrated because change is slow. We stand on the shoulders of the people who came before us."
5. PEN-International does not want to change the way local people do their job. We want to help with the experiences and resources that meet local needs.

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