

University Council on Teacher Education

Minutes for December 20, 2004

10:00-12:00

217 Willard Hall

Members Present: Nancy Brickhouse, John Burmeister, Chris Clark, Alice Eyman, Laura Kincaid, Janet Smith, Barbara VanDornick, Carol Vukelich, George Watson, Rachel Wilt

Members Excused: Tim Barnekov, Joan DelFattore

Member Absent: Amanda Hess

Guests Present: Penny Deiner, Gail Rys

UCTE unanimously approved the minutes from November 15, 2004.

Announcement

The Department of Education granted provisional approval to the graduate programs in Exceptional Children/Severe Disabilities and the M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction/Middle School Mathematics Education.

The Department of Education's lawyer has determined that the Department legally can NOT enter into an agreement with the University of Delaware relative to our certification concerns (i.e., What certification will the ECDE students who are completing the five courses that once led to primary grade certification earn when they graduate? What certification will the ETE students earn when they graduate? Will the Department of Education enter into an agreement with all higher education institutions?) UCTE chair, Carol Vukelich, will speak with Robin Taylor in early January to learn what certification UD candidates will receive.

Delaware State University, Wesley College, and the University of Delaware have been invited to form a Delaware Association of Colleges of Teacher Education, a branch of the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education. Wilmington College will be invited to join the state chapter also.

Old Business

I. Enrollment Reports (Barbara VanDornick)

- [*Enrollment and Admission Reports \(Fall 2004\)*](#)

Barbara VanDornick reviewed the fall 2004 enrollment data. (See attached table.) Overall professional education enrollment is down slightly. However, ethnic enrollment, percentage-wise, is slightly up. Graduate matriculation also has increased. Minority graduate enrollment is approximately 11%.

- *End of Term Report (Spring 2004)*

This item will be tabled until the next meeting.

- [*Institutional Recommendation \(2003-2004\)*](#)

Barbara VanDornick provided data regarding the number of institutional recommendations issued last year. (See attached table.)

II. Elementary Teacher Education (ETE) Student Teaching Calendar (Chris Clark)

The School of Education plans to shorten their student teaching placements from two nine-week placements to two eight-week placements in the fall of 2005. Candidates will receive five credits per placement and three credits for the student teaching seminar. Chris Clark described this move as ‘practical’. The shift is designed to make more effective use of the time the ETE candidates spend student teaching and will result in student teaching ‘fitting’ into a regular semester. Alice Eyman and Janet Smith raised questions about the number of contact hours versus the number of credits. Nancy Brickhouse indicated that she could not find information in the faculty handbook regarding the number of required contact hours for each credit hour. Carol Vukelich indicated that she would attempt to locate such a policy and would report to UCTE in February on her findings.

New Business

I. Grade Inflation (Nancy Brickhouse)

Grade inflation at universities is a growing concern around the country. Last year an ad hoc committee was developed to study grade inflation on the UD campus. This committee reports a significant increase in grades at the UD over the last 15 years. The committee’s proposal is to develop a formula for each unit to define the maximum number of A’s, B’s, etc. that may be offered in the unit. UCTE members raised several concerns (e.g., states require a particular grade point average, like 3.0, for certification, the ‘competency-based nature’ of our programs). Carol Vukelich agreed to invite Jan Blits to speak to UCTE in February about the ad hoc committee’s recommendation.

II. Recommendation to Change Special Education from 1-8, 7-12 to 1-6 and 7-12

Currently, Delaware's special education certification is 1-8 and a 7-12. The recently passed federal legislation, IDEA, requires middle and high school special education teachers to have a content area major or 30 credit hours in the field(s) they teach. State regulation or pass Praxis II in the content area. IDEA requirements mean that ETE students who want special education certification must have a content area major. Shifting the special education certification in Delaware to 1-6 and a 7-12 would result in ETE candidates being able to elect, rather than being required, to complete a content area major so that they are highly qualified. Even if the state were to change its certification levels, ETE candidates would be well advised to earn a content area major. Several states have a 1-12 certification in special education. UCTE members unanimously agreed that Carol Vukelich should contact the Department of Education to request a shift in the special education certification from 1-8, 7-12 to 1-6, 7-12.

III. Course of Study (Gail Rys)

The following [Courses of Study](#) were unanimously approved:

- *EDUC 649, Delaware Writing Project Institute (6 credits)*

Contact person: Carol Vukelich

- *EDUC 617, Delaware Reading Project Institute (6 credits)*

Contact person: Carol Vukelich

- *EDUC 649, Delaware Writing Project Institute (6 credits)*

EDUC 617, Delaware Reading Project Institute (6 credits)

Total: 12 credits

Contact person: Carol Vukelich

- *EDUC 649, Delaware Writing Project Institute (6 credits)*

EDUC 604, Teaching of Writing in Elementary and Middle Grades (3 credits)

Total: 9 credits

Contact Person: Carol Vukelich

- *EDUC 642, Topics in Science Education (3 credits)*

Choose four courses from the following list:

EDUC 643, Environmental Education (3 credits)

EDUC 808, Internship in Education (3 credits)

ENWC 501, Natural History for Teachers (3 credits)

ENWC 618, Avian Biology (3 credits)

MAST 603, Introduction to Marine and Aquatic Education

MAST 645, Topics: Marine Science Education

*MAST 667, Research Internship in Marine Sciences**

*SCEN 567, Delaware's Ecosystems**

(*Will be submitted for permanent course numbers. The course titles will remain the same.)

Total: 15 credits

Contact person: Zoubeida Dagher

The meeting adjourned at 11:33.