

University Council on Teacher Education
Minutes for January 23, 2006
10:00-12:00
200 Academy Street

Members Present: Tim Barnekov, John Burmeister, Chris Clark, Laura Glass, Joe Pika, Barbara VanDornick, Carol Vukelich

Members Excused: Penny Deiner, Joan DeFattore, Bonnie Robb, Gail Rys, Janet Smith

Members Absent: Jessica Kozzi

Guests Present: Nancy Brickhouse, Angela Case, James Rath

The minutes from December 16, 2005 were unanimously approved.

Announcement

Carol Vukelich asked faculty to remind their students of the new Red Clay School district dress code requirements. Carol will forward a copy of the policy to professional education faculty as soon as it is received.

Old Business

- I. MA in History Leading to Certification (Barry Joyce)
This item was tabled until February.

- II. Drug Use (Carol Vukelich)
Carol has investigated Delaware school districts' policy on drug use by teachers. Should a teacher confide to the principal that he/she has been using drugs; the principal is required to encourage the teacher to contact the district's Human Resources department for assistance. Should a teacher tell the principal of another teacher's use of drugs, the principal is required to observe the teacher in question to look for signs of drug use and to request the informing teacher to encourage the reportedly drug-using teacher to come to speak to him/her immediately or to contact the Human Resource department for assistance. Should the teacher not come forward or not follow the principal's advice to seek assistance from the Human Resources department and signs of drug use become evident to the principal, then the principal is required to request that the teacher seek assistance from the Human Resources department. Hard copies of policies from those districts promising hard copies will be distributed when a copy of the policy arrives. UCTE will review the various policies and discuss this topic further at a later date.

New Business

I. ETE Graduates Follow-Up Study (James Rath)

Three colleagues (Angela Case, James Rath and Barbara VanDornick) joined together to study 2003 Elementary Teacher Education graduates who are teaching in Delaware schools. In 2003, 230 students completed a Bachelor of Science degree with an Elementary Teacher Education major and were recommended for initial certification as an elementary teacher. In October 1, 2004, the Delaware Department of Education identified 55 of these graduates as teaching in Delaware and the schools in which they were teaching. The team mailed surveys to these graduates' principals. Eighty percent of the principals responded to the survey. The survey directed the principals to compare these first-year teachers to other first-year teachers with whom they had worked. The survey also asked the principals to identify two strengths and two weaknesses these graduates evidenced based on the ten conceptual framework outcomes. Principals rated these UD graduates' key strength as knowledgeable of content and key weaknesses as the use of technology and of assessment strategies. Nancy Brickhouse indicated that the identified areas of weaknesses are confirmed by other data. In addition, the principals identified the majority of these graduates' students as demonstrating an expected level of achievement.

The committee hopes to follow these teachers for approximately five years. The results from this survey identify areas for future study and raise questions for the faculty to consider regarding the ETE program, particularly in the areas where weaknesses were noted.

A full copy of the report of the study can be obtained from Dr. Rath or Ms. VanDornick.

II. Student Teacher Evaluations (Angela Case)

Angela Case distributed a summary of the Fall 2004 and Spring 2005 evaluation of the student teaching experience completed by the student teachers. At the end of each semester, student teachers are asked to comment on the quality of their experience along a variety of dimensions. The evaluation form is divided into three parts: the student teaching experience in general, an assessment of the cooperating teacher, and an assessment of the University supervisor. Generally, student teachers rate their student teaching experience, their cooperating teacher and their University supervisor very positively. The Office of Clinical Studies has distributed summary data for all programs and each individual program to the program coordinators.

The Council considered whether or not the survey should be conducted once or twice a year; the Council decided that it was best to continue distributing the form in the fall and spring but to reduce the number of items on the form drastically. Ms. Case will make revisions to the form.

III. Assessment UCTE Standing Committee (Carol Vukelich)

This item was tabled until February meeting.

IV. Cooperating Teacher Responsibilities (Carol Vukelich)

The Professional Standards Board is pursuing a proposal whereby student teaching cooperating teachers would be paid a salary supplement comparable to the state's mentor rate (\$750 for each 8-9 weeks experience and \$1500 for each experience longer than 10 weeks). (This would be for Delaware placements only.) Pat Carlson, Professional Standards Board Executive Director, has asked the higher education institutions to prepare a list of cooperating teacher selection criteria and responsibilities. UCTE appointed a task force (Angela Case, Joan DelFattore, and Ann Jornlin) to prepare a draft of these criteria and responsibilities. Once the list is prepared, it will be shared with UCTE prior to forwarding to the Professional Standards Board. The PSB hopes to have the policy in place by fall 2006.

V. Student Petition: Praxis II (Barbara VanDornick)

ETS has lost a student's Praxis II scores. Though the student has rescheduled with ETS to take the test in February, UCTE strongly felt the student needed a response to her well-written letter expressing her frustration with the treatment she received from ETS. After considerable discussion, Chris Clark moved that UCTE direct Barbara VanDornick to write a letter to the student, copying all the people the student copied in her letter, stating that UCTE regrets the inconvenience caused her by the loss of her scores and the anxiety retaking the test will cause her, that UCTE wishes her the best of luck in the retaking of the test and in her student teaching experience, and that UCTE appreciates her effort to provide her Praxis II scores. The motion and seconded and approved.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00.