

University Council on Teacher Education
Minutes for May 26, 2006
1:00-3:00
200 Academy Street

Members Present: Tim Barnekov, John Burmeister, Chris Clark, Joan DelFattore, Jessica Kozzi, Joseph Pika, Bonnie Robb, Gail Rys, Janet Smith, Barbara VanDornick, Carol Vukelich

Members Excused: Penny Deiner, Laura Glass

Guests Present: Angela Case, Kathy Hollowell, Patricia Scott

The minutes from April 24, 2006 were unanimously approved.

Announcement

Update on Dispositions Policy and Procedures: The draft of the policy and procedures was forwarded to the University's lawyer. He is seeking consultation with Washington State University's lawyer before he provides a response to our documents.

Old Business

I. Unit Assessment System (Patricia Scott)

Trish Scott guided a discussion of the draft of the revised Unit Assessment System. The revised system would have two foci: tracking of candidate performance data and monitoring of unit operations. The changes recommended to the candidate assessment system were minimal. While the unit engaged in the monitoring of several aspects of the unit's operation, this monitoring was not fully represented in the Unit Assessment System. The proposed revision separated the system into the two components, making the aspects of the unit's operation monitored clearer.

Members engaged in a lengthy discussion of how best to acquire data from academic units regarding faculty performance. Faculty's and professionals' performance are reviewed annually. This review is clearly detailed in the faculty handbook and used in the determination of salary increases. Consideration was given to requesting aggregated data from department chairs/directors or deans regarding the rating of faculty on teaching, research, and service. Members decided that this was problematic and probably a violation of faculty rights. It was decided that the unit's assessment coordinator would work with each of the five deans with professional education programs in their college to obtain the needed information. Trish will prepare a form for distribution by the deans to the professional education faculty. Members believed that faculty would respond to a request from their dean more quickly and fully than to a request from the

assessment coordinator. The timing of the request will coincide with the completion of the annual appraisal form.

II. Conceptual Framework Taskforce

The task force developed an online survey in order to gather data from faculty, candidates, and the broader professional community on the conceptual framework. The survey was distributed online in March to faculty, professionals, supervisors, cooperating teachers, and candidates. The task force received 129 responses from faculty, professionals, supervisors, and cooperating teachers and 253 responses from candidate. The data revealed a strong belief that the components (problem solver, partner, scholar, reflective practitioner, serving diverse community of learners) should remain. Each was central to the unit's programs and to the creation of high quality teachers. Comparatively, the respondents judged reflective practitioner as the most important component. Partners received the lowest rating with comments indicating that it and *scholars* need better definitions.

Further, candidate results indicated that the University prepared them well to meet the expectations of the conceptual framework.

Given these data, the task force's recommendation is to maintain the conceptual framework as is; it remains consistent with the University's professional education community's beliefs and practices.

The ten outcome statements, with multiple sub-outcomes, will be revised. Trish will bring a revision of this aspect of the conceptual framework to the first UCTE meeting in September. She will link the outcomes to the roles and work to make the definitions of the two confusing elements clearer. A draft will be sent to members over the summer.

New Business

I. Live Text and Release Forms (Patricia Scott)

Currently, the unit has no consistent policy regarding candidates taking photographs, videotapes, or copies of student work for use in their portfolios or as documentation of their work with students. The long-standing belief has been that school districts have release forms on file and this is sufficient. Consultation with the University's lawyer indicated that this is not the case; the unit must have its own permissions form. Trish provided a draft of such a permissions form. After discussion, it was decided that Trish would investigate how other schools are handling release forms and bring a plan to UCTE for its approval in the fall.

II. Graduate Level Course of Study for Secondary Mathematics Teachers (Kathy Hollowell)

Jinfa Cai could not attend this meeting because he is on his way to China; however, he is in full support of this Course of Study. This Course of Study will

broaden secondary mathematics teachers understanding of mathematics, extending their knowledge in five content strands: numbers and operations, geometry, measurement, data analysis, and probability. Teachers will be prepared to teach AP calculus and AP statistics.

Laura Glass requested that specific wording be included to indicate that these courses could not be double counted, for completion towards a degree and movement on the salary schedule beyond a degree.

UCTE unanimously approved this Course of Study.

III. Student Teaching (Angela Case)

Angela brought the issue of variability of credits for weeks candidates student teach to the Council for discussion. The Council agreed that consistency was appropriate and that a policy was needed. As this was Angela's last meeting prior to her retirement on September 6, the new Director of the Office of Clinical Studies will bring such a policy to UCTE in the fall.

As a component of the Unit Assessment System – Operations, the Office of Clinical Studies gathers data each semester from candidates and supervisors on their assessment of the quality of the student teaching experience. Fall Student Teaching Evaluations had an 88% return rate. Overall the ratings were very high, and students seem very satisfied with their student teaching experience. Compared to other outcomes, the lowest rating was received in the area of technology. Schools do not have the technology resources available for our candidates use.

Cooperating teacher evaluations indicated that our students are well prepared. Comments were positive and echo much of what has been said previously stated.

UCTE bid good-bye to three members: Chris Clark, Director of the School of Education, is retiring; Janet Smith, Council representative from the College of Health Sciences also is retiring; Joan Delfattore, English Department, has turned responsibility for the English Education program over to the two new English Education faculty members, and she will return to the English faculty following a year's sabbatical as a literature professor.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.