

University Council on Teacher Education
Minutes for October 19, 2006
10:00-12:00
200 Academy Street

Members Present: Timothy Barnekov, Nancy Brickhouse, Laura Glass, Joseph Pika, Bonnie Robb, Carol Vukelich

Members Excused: Penny Deiner, Steve Goodwin, Barry Joyce, Gail Rys, Barbara VanDornick, George Watson

Guest Present: Barbara Butler, John Hartman, Lynn Worden

The Council unanimously approved the September 21, 2006 minutes.

Announcement

- I. **Undergraduate Professional Education Programs Fall Enrollment Report**
Fall professional education enrollment decreased by 167 students from Fall 2005. The Fall of 2003 was a peak year with an enrollment of 1882. While the numbers have decreased, the percentage of minority enrollment has remained the same. Freshman enrollment across the University is lower this year due to processing problems. The Council requested additional information on the AA degree programs at Wilmington and Dover. Carol Vukelich will seek this additional enrollment data for the Council. Nancy Brickhouse asked for verification that the ETE enrollment figures provided for Newark and Georgetown are accurate.

Old Business

- I. **Student Teaching Variance (Carol Vukelich)**
Current policy states that candidates must pass Praxis I to enroll in student teaching. Candidates can petition UCTE for permission to begin student teaching without meeting this requirement. They must submit a persuasive letter and letters of support from their program coordinator and advisor. If approved, candidates may begin student teaching. Candidates will receive an "I" for EDUC 400 until they pass Praxis I.

Praxis I is a minimum competency test of candidates' reading, writing, and mathematical skills. The test is not challenging, and candidates should be able to pass the test. Several council members agreed that Praxis I is a minimum requirement and that if candidates cannot pass the test, then they should not be allowed to proceed to student teaching. After much discussion on this matter, the Council approved (with one abstention) that candidates are required to pass Praxis I before student teaching. The appeal process was eliminated.

II. Content Testing Requirements (Carol Vukelich)

The current policy requires that candidates must take an appropriate content knowledge test and that they must bring a copy of their test scores to DCTE prior to receiving institutional recommendation. UCTE established this policy to allow candidates to select the test required by the state in which they intended to teach. The policy has become problematic for some graduates. New York State, for example, is requesting that candidates come to New York with a Delaware license. Barbara VanDornick will be meeting with program coordinators prior to the November meeting to discuss the possibility of requiring all candidates to take the appropriate Praxis II test prior to being cleared for graduation.

New Business

I. Cooperating Teacher Experience Evaluations – Fall and Spring 2006 (John Hartman)

The Office of Clinical Studies has distributed summary data for all programs and each individual program to the program coordinators. Most respondents feel student teaching is beneficial. John will be talking with schools to seek ways for improving the program.

II. Teacher Education ID Badges (John Hartman)

John Hartman proposed a revision to the teacher education ID badge system. Rather than making teacher education badges for all professional education candidates, John is proposing that candidates use their current University ID. The ID would be placed in a plastic holder; the holder would indicate that the candidate is a UD teacher candidate. The Council asked John to research the use of a sticker for the front of their ID that indicates 'teacher education and the cost of a plastic holder. John will bring information on this item to next year's UCTE meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.