

University Council on Teacher Education
Minutes for October 22, 2008
1:00-3:00
200 Academy Street

Members Present: Janice Bibik, Suzanne Burton, Barry Joyce, Kathy Minke, Joe Pika, Gail Rys, Sarah Thomas, Carol Vukelich, George Watson, Lynn Worden

Members Excused: John Hartman, Michael Gamel-McCormick, Barbara VanDornick

Guests Present: Lou Hirsh, Bonnie Robb, Terry Whittaker

The minutes of September 16, 2008 were approved unanimously.

Announcements

I. Recent NCATE Executive Board Decisions (Carol Vukelich)

Two motions were approved by the NCATE Executive Board at its fall meeting, October 18th.

The Executive Board asks the NCATE President to return in Spring 2009, after consultation with all quadrants, with a comprehensive set of recommendations for transformation and redesign of, including focused, rigorous, developmental, cost effective options to the NCATE accreditation and program review process and an estimate of additional costs and/or cost savings. The Board encourages the President to initiate pilots and other measures as appropriate and to move forward as expeditiously as possible.

With the approval of the appropriate state agency, NCATE will provide all accredited institutions, except those with focused or probation visits or those with documentation due to remove a condition/provision, the opportunity to defer their visits for one year, beginning with visits in January 2009. NCATE will work with its state partners to determine the schedule of future reviews

UCTE will need to decide to proceed with a fall 2010 continuing accreditation visit or delay for a year.

Lynn Worden and Janice Bibik immediately indicated that they would appreciate having an additional year. Carol Vukelich will contact other program coordinators for their advice. UCTE will decide whether or not to request a delay at the November meeting.

II. Institutional Recommendations (Carol Vukelich)

A candidate who completes a University of Delaware's NCATE/State Approved Teacher Education Program receives an Institutional Recommendation. The Institutional Recommendation indicates *eligibility* for teacher certification and is noted on the candidate's official transcript upon completion of all program requirements. Graduates must apply for teacher certification through the individual states. The University of

Delaware does not issue teaching certificates. There were a total of 369 candidates between September 2007 and August 2008 who received institutional recommendation; 7% of the candidates were minority students.

Old Business

I. Praxis II Data Program Completers (Carol Vukelich)

Barbara VanDornick provided Praxis II pass rate data by program. For the majority of programs, 100% of the candidates received a score that was at or above the state cut score or one candidate failed to meet the cut score. The exception is the Agriculture Education Program. This program evidences a pass rate of 64.7% over two years. Carol Vukelich and Barbara VanDornick have spoken to the program's faculty and the Dean. Dean Robin Morgan assures Carol that she will ensure that candidates have access to the courses they need to build their content knowledge.

UCTE members briefly considered requiring all candidates to not only take the appropriate Praxis II but also to pass the test. This item was tabled for further discussion until the November meeting.

New Business

I. Admission Procedures (Lou Hirsh & Terry Whittaker)

Lou and Terry described the University's admission procedures and minority recruitment efforts. Lou provided data on the Fall 2008 and Fall 2007 freshman applicants to teacher education programs. A total of 284 students enrolled in teacher education this fall. Of these, 218 are non-residents and 88 are residents. This is lower than the number of 2007 teacher education admits, 372, with fewer students electing elementary teacher education and early childhood education. For this fall, 902 students were admitted to an education major; the yield, therefore, was 31.5%. Forty-seven of the 284 admitted students are students of color

Lou also provided information on the University's minority recruitment efforts. UD purchases lists of students of color who are college-bound. Admission officers work with these students to ensure that their applications are complete. This coming year, the Admissions Office will be broadening its geographical recruitment efforts in order to attract students to UD from a more diverse geographical area.

The Admissions Office uses a variety of criteria to make its admission decisions; while the SAT score is important, it is not the only criteria. Lou reports that a "positive decision" is the goal. Items that are important indicators beyond the SAT include the applicant's course load in his/her senior year, volunteer and job activities, and letters of reference. Each minority applicant's file is read by two Admissions people before the applicant is denied. For borderline cases, the Admissions Office also considers the support services the unit will provide, should the applicant be admitted. (ASPIRE is important as a support, and plays a role in the Office's decision-making.)

Lou recalled a meeting with former Dean Tim Barnekov regarding the need to review teacher education applicants differently from applicants to other colleges. While Lou recognizes that there is a significant range of talent and intelligence, to make a decision to admit a student there must be something in the applicant's file that signals an interest in teacher education.

Lou also provided information on the financial aid packages offered to the freshman class. In total, freshmen students were provided \$5.9 million in scholarships, grants and loans. Non-resident teacher education candidates, on average, were provided \$6,465, while resident candidates, on average, were provided \$5,483.

Lou and Terry provided suggestions on how to entice more students to consider teacher education. The following items were suggested:

- Start interfacing with students in the seventh and eighth grades. Students are making career decisions early, and they need to be informed of what is required for admission into the University.
- Entice students into teacher education through summer internships and research experiences, and connect with high school career pathways programs.
- Contact teachers and encourage them to speak to their students.
- Revamp the teacher education website to make it inviting to students. Lou specifically mentioned the computer and electrical engineering website and its video for prospective students. He suggests that David Braunn and Monica Taylor are good sources of information.
- Take Delawareans who are current student teachers to schools as recruiters.

II. Program Approval – Foreign Languages and Literatures (Bonnie Robb)

The Foreign Languages and Literatures Department put forth three new requirements to strengthen the foreign languages and literatures education program.

- Candidates must participate in a Foreign Languages and Literatures-sponsored study abroad program in a country where their program's language is spoken, preferably a semester-long program.
- Candidates must obtain at least a rating of AL (Advanced Low) on the Oral Proficiency Interview for admission to student teaching.
- Candidates must achieve a GPA of 3.0 or better in their required pedagogy courses (FLLT 421, FLLT 422, and FLLT 424).

Questions were raised regarding whether the Praxis I requirement was listed as a prerequisite for FLLT 422 and FLLT 424. The prerequisite must to be listed in the course catalog.

UCTE approved the changes.

III. Principals Survey Results (Carol Vukelich)

Tabled until November.

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

