

University Council on Teacher Education
Minutes for September 27, 2004
10:00-12:00
217 Willard Hall

Members Present: Nancy Brickhouse, John Burmeister, Chris Clark, Joan DeFattore, Alice Eyman, Amanda Hess, Janet Smith, Barbara VanDornick, Carol Vukelich, George Watson, Rachel Wilt

Member Excused: Tim Barnekov

Guests Present: Angela Case, Theresa Clower, Matt Juck, Kate Scantlebury, Patricia Scott

The minutes from June 2, 2004 were unanimously approved.

Announcement

I. Patricia Scott – NCATE Coordinator

Carol Vukelich introduced Patricia Scott as the NCATE Coordinator. Patricia is providing leadership on the maintenance of the University's professional educational programs' accreditation. She is providing technology support to faculty across the University in the development of a system to support each program's assessment plan. Should members need assistance, they should contact her at tscott@udel.edu or at 831-1715.

II. Approved Professional Development Clusters

Carol Vukelich distributed a list of professional development clusters that have been approved by the Professional Standards Board and the State Board of Education. As of July 1, 2005, professional development clusters are the only way teachers can earn professional development credits for salary increments --unless they are a matriculated student in a graduate program or a teacher with a master's degree who completes a 'course of study'.

Old Business

I. Program Approval Process

In June, Tim Barnekov volunteered to approach Secretary of Education Valerie Woodruff regarding the process the state would employ in the program approval process. Dean Barnekov has spoken with Valerie Woodruff, and she is to forward a copy of the timeline and regulations when they are complete. She also will include the requirement that Educational Testing Services provide institutions of higher education with their graduates' test scores. Since June, Dean Barnekov has received no specifics from Secretary Woodruff.

New Business

I. Alumni Surveys (Patricia Scott)

Out of a total of 391 surveys mailed to undergraduates from the class of 2002-2003, only 45 responded (11.5%); most of these responses were to the online surveys. UCTE considered ways to improve the response rate. Chris Clark volunteered to work with Patricia to redesign the survey, including reducing the number of survey items. Joan DeFattore recommended that graduates be contacted in the fall to congratulate them on their new position and their principal be contacted to thank them for selecting a UD graduate. Patricia indicated that she would be using the Delaware Department of Education's DEEDS System to locate UD graduates who secure positions in Delaware. She will contact program coordinators for addresses of other graduates. Once the system is updated with this year's data, these notes will be sent to graduates and their principals; in addition, the graduates and their principals will be alerted to the longer survey that will be sent to them in the spring.

Several points were raised regarding the purpose of the survey. Carol Vukelich reminded members that the survey's purpose is to gather data on graduates' perceptions about how well their programs prepared them for their current teaching position. Currently, the survey questions are linked to the conceptual framework. While the number of items might be reduced, the central purpose must be about how well each candidate's program prepared him/her for teaching or administering or engaging in school psychology work. Chris Clark suggested that UCTE consider ways to gather evidence on student learning through the survey. Patricia and Chris will explore these possibilities and present their recommendations to UCTE.

II. Graduate School Incentive for VISTA Program (Theresa Clower)

Theresa Clower described the UD Service Scholar Program --a graduate-level service learning program within the AmeriCorps*VISTA Program. This program is designed to provide students with exceptional GRE and GPA scores the opportunity for an enriched year of service by directly linking their service work to their future field of study. Guaranteed assistantships for the graduate level work are the incentives. The VISTA program selects new members in early spring. Hence, programs willing to participate need to commit to providing an assistantship for a master's level candidate one year before the candidate actually begins the program.

Theresa indicated that of the 32 current VISTA members, 29 have expressed an interest in pursuing graduate work at UD. Each has a strong undergraduate grade point index and high Graduate Record Exam scores. Several are interested in pursuing their education in teacher education programs.

Should members have any questions, they should feel free to contact Theresa Clower at tclower@udel.edu or 831-0520.

III. Using Coteaching to Improve Secondary Science Education Student Teaching (Kate Scantlebury and Matt Juck)

Kate Scantlebury and Matt Juck described the experimental secondary science education student teaching program implemented last year with DCTE and College of A&S support. Six interns

were placed at Middletown High School. All interns taught five of the seven periods each day (coteaching four and solo teaching the fifth). Kate and Matt identified some of the challenges, and the successes, of implementing this new model. Overall, the both judged the experience as successful. Kate plans to continue using coteaching as the model for student teaching this year; she'll be expanding the number of sites because of the larger number of secondary science education interns. The plan is also to follow the interns as they begin their teaching careers. Other programs might consider alternate ways to operate student teaching within their programs.

IV. Content Area Standardized Test

The specialty organizations have revised how program review reports will be submitted for national recognition. As in the past, each program must demonstrate how its candidates exhibit the appropriate organization's standards. However, effective next spring, the number of performances allowed will be reduced to 6-8. Further, all specialty organizations will require programs to document their candidates' content knowledge through 2 of the 6/8 performances. Therefore, Carol Vukelich and Barbara VanDornick proposed requiring all candidates to take a content area test, like a Praxis II test or the New York State text. Candidates would provide evidence of their scores –and programs could use these data to provide the requested specialty organization content knowledge evidence. The alternative is to develop a test in each content area. After some discussion, UCTE recommended that Carol Vukelich send a memo to the program coordinators describing this possibility. Barbara VanDornick has agreed to put together a list of the content knowledge tests required in the area.

V. Criminal Background Checks (Angela Case)

Students enrolled in teacher education programs do not have to complete a criminal background check. UD students who seek to engage in volunteer activities must complete a background check. Based on a criminal background check for a volunteer activity, a current teacher education candidate was denied a volunteer position in Christina School District. This raised the questions: Should we allow students whom we know to have been rejected by a school district on the basis of their criminal background check to complete clinical placements and to continue in our teacher education programs? Should we require all teacher education majors to have a criminal background check before entering the schools? Angela Case reminded UCTE that this check would only check backgrounds in Delaware. If we required this, students would be responsible for cost of fingerprinting (\$49). Alice Eyman stated that the Early Childhood Development and Education program announced to entering freshman that they will be required to have criminal background checks to enter field experience courses; however, the State is covering the cost through special child care funding. Angela also shared information obtained from the University's lawyer; she was waiting for additional information. Following some discussion, UCTE decided this item needed further discussion at the October meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.