

University Council on Teacher Education

Minutes for April 19, 2004

11:00- 1:00 p.m.

217 Willard Hall

Members Present: Nancy Brickhouse, John Burmeister, Christine Evans, Alice Eyman, Tammy Garber, Bonnie Robb, Janet Smith, Barbara VanDornick, Carol Vukelich, Helen Williams

Member Excused: Tim Barnekov, Joan DelFattore, George Watson

Guest: Sylvia Brooks, Louis Hirsh, Joe Pika, Terry Whittaker

The minutes from March 8, 2004 were approved.

Announcement

- I. *The State Department of Education has granted the Library Media Specialist Program Provisional Approval*

The Delaware Department of Education granted provisional approval (until 2005) to the Library Media Specialist Program.

- II. *Praxis II Cut Scores*

The Professional Standards Board approved the Praxis II cut scores as distributed at UCTE's March meeting.

III. School of Education Professional Development Clusters

UCTE's Professional Development Cluster Standing Committee approved two special education cluster proposals. The proposals have been forwarded to the Delaware Professional Standards Board.

IV. Forty-Five Delaware Teachers Receive National Board Certification

Twenty-four teachers who received National Board Certification have an affiliation with the University of Delaware. Carol Vukelich will send a congratulatory note to each on UCTE's behalf.

V. NCATE Continuing Accreditation

The NCATE Unit Accreditation Board granted the University's professional education unit continuing accreditation with no areas of improvement. According to the letter sent to President Roselle, the next NCATE visit is scheduled for the fall 2010.

Old Business

I. Guidelines for Appeal for Variance from Praxis I Policy

The three students who appealed and were granted permission to begin student teaching without passing Praxis I have indicated that they passed the test. After considerable discussion, UCTE agreed to continue to allow students to appeal UCTE's Praxis I policy. UCTE will use the following procedures in the consideration of such appeals:

Guidelines for Appeal for Variance from Praxis I Policy

- 1. Student must have attempted to pass the Praxis I tests at least 3 times.*
- 2. Student is within 2 points of passing the specific Praxis I test(s) in question.*
- 3. Student must provide evidence that he/she has taken steps to correct the problem between test takings (e.g., examples of problems worked, tutoring records, Writing Center work).*
- 4. Student must have a letter of support from his/her advisor.*
- 5. Student must have a letter of support from the program coordinator.*
- 6. Student must write a letter to UCTE requesting the variance and describing his/her efforts to alleviate his/her poor performance.*

If approved, the student may begin student teaching. If at the end of the student teaching experience, he/she has not successfully passed all Praxis I tests, then a grade of "I" will be recorded for EDUC 400. This grade will not be changed until such time as he/she provides evidence that he/she has successfully passed all Praxis I tests.

II. Meritorious Teacher Designation

After much discussion, UCTE decided to post the information about the award on the UD Teacher Education website.

New Business

I. Professional Development Cluster (Joe Pika)

With the State's new salary framework in place as of June 30, 2004, the Department of Education and the State Board of Education are concerned that educators earn graduate credit toward completion of a degree *or* professional development cluster credit, not both, for courses completed at the University. Completion of a cluster can result in a 2%, 4%, or 6% salary increase on educators' state portion of their salary. Completion of graduate credits will result in a salary adjustment upon completion of 15 credits toward the degree and at degree completion. Joe Pika, in his capacity as State Board President, addressed UCTE on his desire for a clear way to distinguish the difference between UD courses completed toward a graduate degree and for cluster credit. After some discussion, it was agreed that educators must register for a section of EDUC 500 (Inservice Education) when completing a course for cluster credit. EDUC 500 cannot be used toward a graduate education degree. This will make the distinction between graduate and cluster credit clear on educators' transcript.

In addition, after discussion, UCTE decided that professional development clusters linked with University graduate courses no longer will be reviewed by UCTE's Professional Development Cluster Standing Committee. Since the quality of graduate courses is the purview of an academic department, UCTE assumes that academic departments are monitoring the quality of their graduate courses, and hence the quality of the cluster "courses."

II. Fall 2004 Students of Color Admitted into Education Majors (Louis Hirsh & Terry Whitacker)

The Admissions Office sent offers to students for fall admission to the University in mid-March. Louis Hirsh and Terry Whitacker were invited to UCTE to explain the process and to provide data on the number of offers extended to students of color for admission to education programs. For education majors, out-of-state numbers look comparable to other years; however, the number of offers of admission to Delawareans of color has dropped significantly from last year. Lou and Terry

identified several reasons why this might have occurred. They identified the lack of a connection with the Metropolitan Urban League due to the departure of its president and a skeletal staff as the key reason. Members suggested several ways to increase the numbers of students of color in education. Sylvia Brooks called all students of color who were offered admission to the University in early March to alert them that they soon would receive an offer of admission and to answer questions they might have about the University. These students will be called again by the School of Education; the department of Individual and Family Studies; Health and Physical Education; or Sylvia Brooks, ASPIRE Director. Lou encouraged callers to ask students who are not satisfied with their financial aid package to call either the Financial Aid Office or Louis Hirsh.

Terry Whitacker stressed the importance of dealing with diversity holistically. Diversity needs to be embedded in the University's daily practices. The culture and climate projected by faculty is important. Many Delawareans do not know of the changes on campus. Students need to be empowered to recruit new students. Connecting with the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League was important because it helped to build the University's credibility in the State among minority groups. The intent is to renew this connection as soon as a new president is hired. The University may need to begin working more directly with middle school students, so that students take the college preparatory courses while in high school. It is inappropriate to admit students who can not succeed at the University.

III. Project Search

Barbara VanDornick provided data on the huge success of Project Search. Several Delaware districts did offer interviewees contracts. Delaware Day had a very large turn-out, much larger than anticipated. Trabant proved to be too small. Delaware Day will move back to the Bob Carpenter Center next year. As in other years, districts and students registered positive comments about the event. Carol Vukelich sent a thank you message on UCTE's behalf to the organizers.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.