

University Council on Teacher Education

Minutes for December 8, 2003

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

217 Willard Hall

Members Present: Tim Barnekov, Nancy Brickhouse, John Burmeister, Chris Clark, Joan DeFattore, Christine Evans, Bonnie Robb, Janet Smith, Barbara VanDornick, Carol Vukelich

Members Excused: Alice Eyman, George Watson, Helen Williams

Guests: Penny Deiner, Gail Rys

The minutes from October 20, 2003 were approved unanimously.

Announcement

- I. *The UCTE Professional Development Cluster Committee approved Innovative Leadership Initiatives*

The professional develop cluster committee approved the Innovative

Leadership Initiatives cluster proposal. The proposal has been forwarded to the Professional Standards Board.

New Business

I. State Accreditation Review of Teacher Education Programs

The Department of Education has approved all programs, except the MED in Educational Leadership Program. A new specialization within the Master of Instruction Program, the School Library Media Specialist, has been sent to the Department of Education for its review. When the Department of Education terminated its practice of course counting for certification, teachers interested in earning certification as a School Library Media Specialist had no means to secure this certification. Teachers will be able to earn this certification through this specialization.

II. Alumni Survey Results

The principals' responses to the alumni survey are now available at <http://www.udel.edu/dcte/ucte/AlumniSurvey.html>. The data are not broken down by program due to the low response rate, even though a telephone procedure was attempted this year. A graduate student conducted telephone interviews. This proved to be a challenging procedure. The graduate student experienced difficulty speaking directly with the principal, and some principals did not know which of his/her teachers is a recent UD graduate.

DCTE now has a database for tracking where first-year teachers are teaching –at least for alumni teaching in Delaware. (Program coordinators have been asked to supplement this database.) The Department of Education provides the Delaware information. Using this database, Carol Vukelich sent principals a letter suggesting that the University is eager to receive their comments about our graduates. Several principals have called or e-mailed to indicate how pleased they are with our graduates.

III. Cooperating Teachers Tuition Remission Benefits

Nancy Brickhouse suggested that it would be helpful to offer student teacher cooperating teachers tuition remission as a benefit. UD pays cooperating teachers only a minimal amount and a tuition-remission benefit would be a nice reward since teachers do not always get reimbursed from their school districts for courses taken during the academic year. The challenge would be paying for this benefit. Many suggestions were discussed including asking the Department of Education to contribute funds and the UD matching these funds to help support the tuition costs, seeking corporate sponsorship, and banking credit hours that are not used during the summer.

Tim Barnekov indicated that such a proposal would need Board of Trustees' final approval--if the proposal made it to the Board of Trustees. He will discuss this matter with the Provost to learn the probable outcome of a more developed proposal.

IV. Research Focus

Carol Vukelich asked the question: Should we think about having a shared research focus? Materials from the University of Virginia were provided as a model. A single focus would make our research efforts more visible. Following considerable discussion, Chris Clark and Carol Vukelich agreed to meet to consider how to craft a proposal for requests from faculty.

V. What Does It Mean To Be A “Highly Qualified” Teacher

Due to the No Child Left Behind federal legislation, states are required to define what it means to be “highly qualified.” Because each state is creating its definition, what it means to be “highly qualified” will vary from state to state. At the moment, it will be possible to be certified but not be highly qualified. In all likelihood, states will change certification requirements so that to be certified is to be highly qualified. The requirements for people new to the teaching profession will be different from those for current teachers. Barbara VanDornick and Carol Vukelich provided a copy of their interpretation of the Delaware requirements, as now defined. (See attachment.) It appears that students will need a major in their teaching field *and* a passing score on a “rigorous test” (Praxis II presently) for them to be judged as “highly qualified.”

VI. *SOE Program Changes (Gail Rys)*

The School of Education brought forth changes to several programs. These proposed changes, and UCTE's vote, are summarized below:

- a. *Course changes in the School Library Media concentration within the M.I. degree.* Approved.
- b. *Establishment of a M.Ed. degree with a major in Educational Technology.* Currently, Educational Technology is a specialization within the M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction major. Approved.
- c. *Establishment of a M.Ed. degree with a major in Reading.* This major would replace the Literacy and Schooling specialization within the M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction major. Approved.
- d. *Establishment of a M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction with two fewer specializations (without Ed Tech and Literacy and Schooling).* Approved.
- e. *Course changes in the Administration and Policy concentration within the Ed.D. degree.* The School of Education proposed that K-12 and Higher Education candidates in the Administration and Policy specialization within the Ed.D. take two courses that are more specific to their interests as part of their core requirements. Approved.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30.