

Minutes for June 2, 2004
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
217 Willard Hall

Members Present: Tim Barnekov, Nancy Brickhouse, John Burmeister, Chris Clark, Joan DelFattore, Alice Eyman, Tammy Garber, Bonnie Robb, Janet Smith, Barbara VanDornick, Carol Vukelich, George Watson, and Helen Williams

Members Excused: Chris Evans

Guest: Kathy Hollowell, MSERC

The minutes of April 19, 2004 were approved as distributed.

Announcements

This will be our last meeting of this academic year.

- *Three students (ETE, HPE, and Math Education) have applied for Meritorious New Teacher status. Information on this award has been posted to UD Teacher Education website.*
- The Master of Instruction School Library/Media Concentration has been granted provisional approval by the Department of Education until June 30, 2007.

New Business

Student Teaching Handbook

In past years, the student teaching handbook was in paper form and students were able to purchase a copy in the Bookstore. In an effort to save paper and to allow for regular updating, the handbook was put online. Janet Smith requested the return to the production of a hard copy of the handbook for cooperating teachers and student teachers. As in the past, the hard copies would be available for students to purchase at the Bookstore. Students would cover the full cost of the production of the handbook. Dr. Smith's request was based on her finding that students and cooperating teachers do not always have access to a computer to review or download the handbook. The handbook is also given to the cooperating teachers and is used to facilitate the three-way conferences among the student, student teaching supervisor, and cooperating teacher. It was suggested that perhaps only the student teaching policies and student resources be printed in the hard copy of the handbook; the sample forms would remain on line. The Council voted 7-3-1(abstain) to have program coordinators and University supervisors review the contents of the Student Teaching Handbook for pertinent sections to be copied and for the Office of Clinical Studies to proceed with having hard copies made sale in the Bookstore.

New Requirements for Undergraduate Education

The Faculty Senate approved a new policy requiring all undergraduate students entering UD in September 2004 or later to take at least three credits of discovery-based or experiential learning. The guidelines of the policy are still to be determined, but the core of the requirement is that everybody will have a “first year at Delaware” experience. Carol Vukelich asked the Council what the various programs are considering doing to fulfill this requirement. One possibility suggested is for students to have an orientation to their major. A freshman seminar was suggested to orient students to the certification options so that students could make informed choices about their career goals. One of the University’s requirements is that the experience be interdisciplinary and specific to first-year students. Transfers to UD also will need to fulfill this requirement. The students should be advised as to what satisfies this new requirement and, possibly, select from a list of choices. The Council suggested that implementation be at the college level and that colleges share with each other what they develop.

Several questions were posed to which an answer does not yet exist:

- Does the experience have to be major specific?
- If a student doesn’t fulfill the requirement in the first year, what happens?
- Can the student be a sophomore if this requirement is not met?
- Is there a need to offer more seats in what already exists?
- Can the requirement be met through participation in a currently existing course or experience or does something new need to be created?

State’s Program Approval Process

It seems the document revising the state’s program approval process is stalled someplace in the Department of Education. As it is vital for program coordinators to know how to meet the new NCATE program approval requirements, Carol Vukelich suggested that UCTE send a letter to DOE Secretary Valerie Woodruff requesting information on the status of the revision to the approval process. She presented the Council with a draft of the letter for discussion.

Tim Barnekov volunteered to approach Secretary Woodruff regarding this matter. The Council decided that this approach likely was the less confrontational and requested Tim to proceed.

A related DOE topic also was discussed. The state Department of Education likely is beginning negotiations with Educational Testing Services regarding Praxis II test results. Carol has learned that unless the state’s contract with ETS specifies that candidates’ sub scores are to be reported to the state’s higher education institutions, institutions only will receive candidates’ total scores. As it is the candidates’ sub scores that are of greatest use to institutions in program revisions, the Council requested Dean Barnekov to speak with Secretary Woodruff about including this specification in the state’s contract with ETS. Dean Barnekov will report to the Council on the results of his discussions with Secretary Woodruff.

Once those issues are resolved, the Council can proceed on following up on the additional NCATE-related issues. For example, what happens if a program fails to earn national recognition from the appropriate specialty organization? Who will review programs for which there is no NCATE-affiliated specialty organization and what criteria will be used in this review?

Elimination of Bias in the Scoring of Performance Assessments

The Council discussed what programs are doing to ensure the elimination of bias (a soft version of inter-rater reliability) in the scoring of their performance assessments. It was suggested that the performance assessments and rubrics be revisited to determine what the interrater reliability scores really mean, and that R&D may be able to give some direction.

The issue of the use of technology in classrooms while student teaching was raised. In some cases, cooperating teachers will not let student teachers use the computers in the classroom. It seems that some teachers feel threatened by student teachers coming in with more technology abilities than they have.

Audrey Noble will be invited to attend a fall meeting to speak to the inter-rater reliability issue.

Middle School Mathematics Course of Study (Kathy Hollowell)

Kathy Hollowell presented a Course of Study for Middle School Mathematics Teachers proposal to the Council. To be eligible to earn credits in a Course of Study, the courses must graduate level and the candidate must already have completed a master's degree. The Course of Study will be a minimum of six credits. After 15 credits in a Course of Study (can be over many semesters), the teacher will earn a pay increase. The proposal is for five three-credit courses, most with a MATH designation. Though the courses have the MATH designation, the Course of Study's design committee felt strongly about the importance of embedding the pedagogical knowledge, as well as content knowledge, into each course. There is also the potential for the courses to be used by candidates in the individualized component of the MI degree.

There is no formal admission required to a Course of Study and courses may be taken in any order. After much discussion of grade achievement and overall cumulative grade point index for the Course of Study, the Council agreed that candidates must maintain a 3.0 GPA and have no individual course grade less than 'C-' for the course to be included in the Course of Study.

The University will need to maintain records of who completes a Course of Study, and this information will need to be transmitted to DOE. It was suggested that perhaps a certificate should be given to the teacher at the time of his/her completion of a Course of Study.

After this lengthy discussion, UCTE voted to approve the Course of Study for Middle School Mathematics Teachers.

Pay of Cooperating Teachers

Nancy Brickhouse recommended that the Council approve a recommendation to raise the pay of cooperating teachers. Other Delaware institutions pay \$350/student teacher for 14 week placements. Presently, UD cooperating teachers earn approximately \$100 for comparable placements. It was decided that UCTE would draft a letter to Provost Dan Rich recommending that cooperating teachers be paid on a par with our fellow Delaware higher education institutions. The exact amount to be paid would vary depending on the duration of the student teaching assignment, i.e., seven weeks, nine weeks, and 14 weeks (e.g., \$350 for 14weeks, half for 7 weeks, prorated for 9 weeks). Tim Barnekov hypothesized that the cost of implementing the recommendation would be approximately \$100,000 and that the argument for the increase will need to be more substantive than the equity issue. Nancy moved that cooperating teachers who are working with student teachers in a14-week placements be paid \$350, prorated for placements lasting fewer weeks. The motion carried. Chris Clark and Nancy Brickhouse agreed to draft the memo and to send the draft to UCTE for approval prior to forwarding it to the Provost.

Possibility of Removing One of Two Educational Psychology Courses in the Secondary Education and K-12 Programs

Chris Clark raised the issue of the possibility of removing one of two educational psychology courses in all secondary and K-12 teacher education programs. He suggested eliminating EDUC 414, and making 413 a four-credit course. The Council supported the notion that the School of Education continue its work with the secondary education coordinators to achieve this goal.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.