

University Council on Teacher Education

Agenda for March 8, 2004

11:00- 1:00 p.m.

217 Willard Hall

Members Present: Tim Barnekov, Nancy Brickhouse, John Burmeister, Joan DelFattore, Christine Evans, Alice Eyman, Bonnie Robb, Janet Smith, Barbara VanDornick, Carol Vukelich, George Watson

Member Excused: Chris Clark

Member Absent: Helen Williams

Guest: Laura Kincaid

The minutes from December 8, 2003 and January 26, 2004 were approved.

Announcement

- I. The Cluster Proposal Committee approved the Civics Education Proposal and forwarded it to the Professional Standards Board.*

II. Project Search

Teach in Delaware Day will be held Wednesday, March 17 from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Trabant University Center. Project Search will be held on Thursday, March 18 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Bob Carpenter Sports/Convocation Center. Please contact Barbara VanDornick if you plan to attend the luncheon on the 18th.

III. Full Approval: University of Delaware Teacher Education Programs

The Secretary of Education Valerie Woodruff awarded full approval until December 31, 2008 to all teacher education programs.

New Business

I. Honors Day

Kate Scantlebury, Alice Eyman, Vickie Lucas, Steve Goodwin, and Pat Barber will serve on the subcommittee to work on UCTE's behalf to select recipients of UCTE Honors Day awards. This subcommittee will meet and select recipients on March 15.

II. End of Term Report - Undergraduate

The fall report indicates that a few ASPIRE students are experiencing difficulty. Sylvia Brooks, Director of ASPIRE, has written to their advisors to ask them to contact these students. She is also contacting the students experiencing difficulty to offer assistance. UCTE reviewed the numbers and percentages of candidates in each program who are performing at the various levels.

III. Guidelines for Appeal for Variance from Praxis I Policy

In January 2003, UCTE members approved the following policy: Candidates who have not passed Praxis I may begin student teaching this spring 2003 but will not receive a grade for student teaching until they have passed this test.

Currently there are two students who have not passed Praxis I who have begun student teaching. The question is: How do we proceed if they do not pass Praxis I?

After considerable discussion, by consensus, members decided to speak with their colleagues about this topic. Action was delayed until the April meeting.

IV. *Comparison of the Required Praxis II Tests and Cut-off Scores in the Region*

Carol Vukelich distributed a sheet detailing the Praxis II cut scores approved by the Professional Standards Board and by the State Board of Education. The scores proposed by the State Board of Education are higher than those established by the Professional Standards Board. Carol informed members that at their March meeting the Professional Standards Board accepted all the State Board of Education's proposed cut scores, with the exception of the scores in Physics and Social Studies. For these two areas, the Professional Standards Board proposed compromise scores. Because the cut scores appear to be close to being approved by the State Board, UCTE decided that it was not appropriate for it to register its view on Praxis II cut scores. In general, UCTE's feeling is that the cut scores are set low and that UD graduates will have no difficulty passing these tests.

V. *Proposed Graduate Level Option within the MED in Curriculum and Instruction Leading to Certification in Middle School Mathematics*

Currently there is no university or college in Delaware that offers certification in middle school mathematics at the graduate level. The proposed admission requirements include 24 credit hours of mathematics approved by the math education faculty, minimum undergraduate GPA of 2.75, three letters of recommendation, statement of objectives/goals, a passing score in Praxis I and in Praxis II on the Middle School Mathematic test.

After discussion, UCTE unanimously approved the new program option within the MED in Curriculum and Instruction and recommended that the School of Education faculty move it forward to the State for program approval status.

VI. *Meritorious Teacher Designation*

The meritorious new teacher requirements were discussed. John Burmeister pointed out how difficult it will be for a math or science teacher education candidate to meet the grade point average requirement. The discussion turned

to how candidates would be made aware of this award or designation.

After much discussion, members decided to delay action on this item until the next meeting.

VII. University's Sponsorship of Cluster Proposals by External Agencies and Individuals

Carol Vukelich received a call from an outside organization asking if the University would be willing to sponsor cluster proposals from non-university groups and individuals. After discussion about the merits of taking on the task of reviewing and sponsoring non-University clusters, Carol made the recommendation that UCTE not take on this responsibility. UCTE unanimously supported this recommendation.

VIII. Revision to HPE Program

Janet Smith brought forward a proposal from HPE to drop the second writing requirement and reduce the total number of credit hours required for graduation to 122. Janet Smith explained that HPE students do a great deal of writing in many courses. UCTE unanimously approved the revision.

IX. Spring 2004 Enrollment Figures

UCTE reviewed the spring semester professional education enrollment data. It was noted that enrollment figures have increased since last semester.

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.