

University Council on Teacher Education

October 4, 2001 Meeting

1:00-3:00 p.m.

217 Willard Hall

Members Present: Nicholas Baker, Timothy Barnekov, Gaysha Beard, Nancy Brickhouse, Chris Clark, Alice Eyman, Michael Ferrari, Barry Joyce, Joseph Pika, Janet Smith, Barbara VanDornick, Carol Vukelich, Marcia Watson-Whitmyre

Guest Present: Angela Case

The minutes from the September 6, 2001 meeting were unanimously approved.

Announcements

I. Measuring Up 2000: State-By-State Report Card for Higher Education

The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education report offers systematic state-by-state comparisons of higher education's performance on several dimensions to the residents of each state. This group rated Delaware as follows: preparation – C+; Participation – A; Affordability – C-; Completion – B; Benefits – A; and Learning – I. A copy of the report is available in 201 Willard for review.

II. Assessing Evidence of P-12 Student Learning: Approaches that Create Program Quality in Teacher Education (Conference)

This conference is being held in Washington, DC from November 11-13. The focus of the conference is assessment of student learning strategies. NCATE 2000 asks that teacher education programs show how their candidates impact student (P-12) learning. Professional educators interested in attending this conference should contact DCTE.

III. Praxis II Has Been Validated in Delaware in the Following Areas: Biology; Chemistry; Earth Science; Physical Science; Physics; English-Language Arts; Math/Comprehensive; Elementary K-4; Elementary 5-8; Social Studies; Special Education-Elementary; Special Education-Secondary; Middle School Math, Social Studies, Science, English Language Arts; French; Spanish; Agriculture; Physical Education

At the moment, the state does not require new teachers to demonstrate their knowledge on Praxis II tests. A standing committee of the Professional Standards Board is discussing the possibility of requiring teachers to take the appropriate Praxis II test and score at or above the state cut level by the end of their 3rd year of teaching. If the Professional Standards Board approves such a

recommendation, the state is ready to implement the recommendation in the above-identified areas.

IV. Fall Enrollment Data

Enrollment in teacher education programs (undergraduate) is down 6% this year. The number of teacher education candidates is 1696. Undergraduate minority enrollments similarly are declining. Over the last three years while UD has put significant effort into minority recruitment, the number of minority teacher education candidates has decreased from 158 to 119. As SAT scores increase, the number of minority professional education candidates decreases. Students who can meet the SAT requirements have multiple higher education options. ASPIRE has determined that it will focus its efforts on select high-minority student enrollment high schools and will seek to cultivate a long-term relationship with these schools. These high school's alumni who are UD teacher education candidates will be used in ASPIRE's recruitment efforts. In the subsequent discussion, Chris Clark proposed that UD run a future teacher summer camp. Larry Griffith of the Admission's Office will be attending the next Aspire Advisory Board meeting, and will be invited to attend the next UCTE meeting.

Our graduate enrollment is equal to what it was last year, 330. Graduate minority enrollment has remained relatively stable over the past several years; the fall 2001 percentage is 10 percent.

Old Business

I. Survey from Soon-To-Be Graduates

At the September UCTE meeting, Carol Vukelich was asked to revise and significantly shorten the survey piloted last spring with soon-to-be graduates; this is the survey that would eventually be used with alumni. Using the conceptual framework as a guide, she created two surveys: Survey of Graduates and Survey of Advanced Program Graduates. UCTE members Barry Joyce, Chris Clark, and Michael Ferrari were asked to share the surveys with appropriate colleagues before the November meeting. (Interested professional education faculty may obtain a copy of the survey from 201 Willard Hall.)

a. Response from Math Education Department (Jinfa Cai)

The Math Department expressed concern that conclusions would be drawn from so few mathematics education candidates. Nevertheless, the Department carefully considered the program aspects these candidates identified as problematic. The Department has decided to conduct exit interviews with graduating seniors each year beginning spring 2002. The Department's goal is to gather information about how to improve the program.

b. Response from HPE (Janet Smith)

The HPE program has gone through a major revision since the graduates of spring 2001. The class that will graduate in spring 2003 is completing the revised program. The program has been

revised in the following areas: role of the advisor to the candidates' professional preparation; working with parents and families; responding to students with learning difficulties or special needs; and selecting, adapting, or developing curriculum. HPE believes it has addressed those areas identified as problematic by soon-to-be graduates in spring 2001.

II. Student Teaching Variance Request

Consistent with UCTE guidelines, the UCTE chair appointed an Ad Hoc Committee to consider the request of a MED in Exceptional Children candidate's request to student teach in her place of employment. The Ad Hoc Committee reported that it was unable to consider the candidate's request because she has not yet completed a program prerequisite to student teaching, EDUC 679. UCTE unanimously approved the Ad Hoc Committee's decision to delay consideration of the candidate's request until she has completed EDUC 679, assuming the candidate reapplies for a variance.

New Business

I. Clinical Studies Advisory Council (Angela Case)

Director of Clinical Studies Angela Case has created a list of candidates for possible membership on the Clinical Studies Advisory Council. Her goal in creating the membership list was to include representation from all three counties and from various professional education levels. Questions were raised regarding the function of the Advisory Council and the advisability of having a single council rather than program-level councils. The focus of the Council would be to strengthen our clinical program. NCATE standards calls for people from the field to participate in the planning and implementation of clinical studies experiences. This Council would serve this purpose. It would meet twice a year with minutes submitted to UCTE. A motion was made and approved, with one no vote, for the creation of a Clinical Studies Advisory Group.

II. Student Teacher Course Evaluation (Angela Case)

Two hundred seventeen students student taught during the spring semester in 336 different placements. A total of 336 evaluation forms were distributed and 238 evaluations were returned for a response rate of 71%. Generally students feel very positive about their student teaching experiences. (Copies of the full report are available in 201 Willard.)

III. Revision to Science Discipline Area in ETE Program (Nancy Brickhouse)

The science education faculty, with Vickie Lucas, revised the program. The total 18 credit hours in the discipline remain the same. The change resulted in old courses being deleted and 16 new courses being added. A motion was made and unanimously approved to accept the revised science discipline area.

IV. Letters of Complaint

NCATE asks that institutions maintain a record of complaints about professional education-related topics. No details need to be provided, however, institutions are asked to maintain information on complaints registered by professional education candidates and on how they responded. Institutions need to show evidence that we are addressing candidate concerns. Members felt that a definition of a complaint should be created. Members were asked to come prepared to discuss this topic at the November meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.