

University Council on Teacher Education
Minutes for October 10, 2012
1:30-3:30
200 Academy Street

Members Present: Michelle Cirillo, Gabrielle Guadagnino, Kate Scantlebury, Barbara VanDornick, Carol Vukelich, Lynn Worden

Members Excused: Janice Bibik, Suzanne Burton, Ralph Ferretti, Laura Glass, Lynn Okagaki, Joe Pika

Guests Present: Jose Aviles, Jill Flynn, Melva Ware

The September minutes were approved as distributed.

Announcements

I. Enrollment Reports (Barbara VanDornick)

Fall 2012 undergraduate teacher education enrollment is 1,378; this is a decrease of 83 students across all professional education programs from Fall 2011. The minority teacher education enrollment is 11.3%, a percentage consistent with the past. While graduate professional education program enrollment is down 21 students (335), diversity has increased to 23%.

II. Update on Pathwise Revision (Kate Scantlebury)

Kate Scantlebury described the progress the committee is making to revise the student teaching evaluation form.

III. Invitation to Launch Work Group to Advise the Completion of the Delaware Human Capital Diagnostics (Carol Vukelich)

The Delaware Department of Education invited Carol Vukelich to participate in a working group to advise the Department on their completion of the Delaware Human Capital Diagnostic project. The first meeting of the work group is October 19. Carol will update the Council on the Department's plans.

Old Business

I. Clearance for Candidates in Pre-Student Teaching Placements (Carol Vukelich)

As discussed last month, Christina and Colonial school districts are requiring background checks for pre-student teaching candidates. Effective this spring, Colonial School District will require all candidates to be cleared through a full federal background check. Currently, Christina School District requires the less extensive check. Several other districts are considering requiring background checks for pre-student teaching candidates. The federal background check is \$36, whereas the less extensive background check is \$24.50 (unless the student is from New York where he/she could be charged an

additional \$65 charge). While the federal background check requires three to four weeks to be processed, the lesser background check takes 2-3 days. Districts will not honor placement request until the student is cleared.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to require all candidates to secure a federal background check effective September 2013. Students will be advised of this new policy when they pre-register for fall courses with practicum placements.

For this spring semester (2013), all students will be required to complete the lesser version of the background check. The Assistant Director of Field and Clinical Experiences will work with Mark Williams (UD Human Resources) to establish a procedure.) In addition, no pre-student teaching candidate will be placed in Colonial School District this spring semester. Students will be advised of this new policy in late November, after pre-registering for a spring course with a practicum placement. Students from New York will be encouraged to complete the full federal background check to avoid the potential of an additional \$65 charge.

II. *Operation Educate the Educator (Carol Vukelich)*

Tabled until November meeting.

III. *Policy on Student Teaching with Two Placements (Kate Scantlebury)*

Tabled until November meeting.

New Business

I. *Admission Procedures (Jose Aviles)*

Jose Aviles, Director of Admissions, indicated no significant changes have been made to the admissions process. UD admitted 3,844 students this fall from a record number of applicants, 26,795. Unfortunately, the non-resident yield was not as predicted. The problem UD faces is a national problem: there are fewer high school graduating seniors. Like all institutions of higher education, UD will be competing for these fewer students. UD has broadened its recruitment efforts, targeting some high schools in the west and mid-west. Discovery Days in the summer generated increased interest. Blue and Gold Saturdays also have been successful. The Admissions Office is encouraging students to visit campus during the weekday so they can meet with faculty and visit classes. UD will need to reconsider its recruitment strategies. For example, rather than targeting students at the narrow top band, perhaps its focus should be that next band of students. Perhaps UD could gain national attention for such an admission focus. Perhaps attributes in addition to academic record should be considered, attributes like persistence and leadership. Jose is considering ways to attract an increasing number of students from underrepresented groups. Maybe all such students could be housed in a scholars' house.

II. *Collaborative for Diversifying Teacher Education at UD (Jill Flynn)*

In addition to Jill, the group consists of Deborah Bieler, Hannah Kim, Eugene Matusov, Rosalie Rolon-Dow, Terry Whittaker, Carol Wong, and Lynn Worden. Their mission is to recruit and prepare teachers who better match the demographics of students in Delaware public schools and nationwide, with a focus on race, ethnicity, and socio-

economic class. They further aim to prepare all teacher education candidates to work effectively with diverse students. The group's plans for the 2012-2013 academic year include: (1) Participate in professional development; (2) explore possibilities for funding/institutionalizing a coordinator position, including working with ASPIRE; (3) conduct a self-study; (4) write reports using the self-study data and research literature to secure further funding; and (5) host a Diversity in Teacher Education Summit in spring 2013.

- III. *2011-2012 Exit Survey – Initial & Advanced Programs (Barbara VanDornick)***
Tabled until November meeting.

- IV. *Criteria for the Selection a of Cooperating Teachers and University Supervisors (Carol Vukelich)***
Tabled until November meeting.

UCTE adjourned at 3:45 p.m.