

University Council on Teacher Education
Minutes for February 14, 2013
1:30-3:30
200 Academy Street

Members Present: Michelle Cirillo, Ralph Ferretti, Laura Glass, Gabrielle Guadagnino, Joe Pika, Barbara VanDornick, Carol Vukelich, Lynn Worden, Linda Zankowsky

Members Excused: Janice Bibik, Suzanne Burton, Barry Joyce, Lynn Okagaki

Guest Present: Christopher Ruszkowski

The December minutes were approved unanimously as distributed.

Announcements

I. *Update on Pathwise Revision*

At the December UCTE meeting, the Council charged program faculty to “personalize” the student teaching evaluation form for their programs by creating rubrics and defining the indicators using their Specialty Program Association’s standards. ETE was the only group to date to complete this task. Joe Pika suggested that this would be the topic at the next Secondary Education program faculty meeting. Laura Glass agreed to describe the Elementary Teacher Education plan at this meeting. If additional programs do not pilot the instrument this semester, the unit will be unable to replace Pathwise with a version of this tool in the 2013-2014 academic year.

II. *Fall 2012 End-of-Term Report*

Barbara VanDornick distributed the Fall 2012 End-of-Term-Report for Undergraduate Teacher Education programs. Out of 1378 professional education candidates, 28 are on probation, 3 were dismissed, and 97 have a GPA below 2.5. Overall, our candidates are doing very well.

III. *Teacher Preparation Programs/SPA Review*

Carol Vukelich announced that all UD teacher and other professional education preparation programs now are nationally recognized with no conditions. Specialty Program Association standards will be revised. Barbara VanDornick will be meeting with the appropriate program faculty when their Specialty Program Association standards are released.

IV. *Improving Teacher Preparation in Delaware*

NCTQ recently released the 2012 NCTQ State Teacher Policy Yearbook. The State of Delaware did not fare well on NCTQ’s indicators. Secretary of Education Mark Murphy has endorsed the report.

V. *Meeting with Superintendents*

Tabled until the March meeting

Old Business

I. *Operation Educate the Educators (Barbara Settles)*

Tabled until the March meeting

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

Carol Vukelich charged Linda Zankowsky to address this topic with the Clinical Studies Policies and Procedures Task Force. The Council suggested that the Task Force consider a minimum number of weeks of student teaching be required to earn the unit's institutional recommendation. The Council also directed the Task Force to consider the policy on the relationship between hours or weeks of student teaching and credits to be earned.

III. *Integration of Common Core State Standards into Teacher Education Program (Carol Vukelich)*

Tabled until the March meeting. Carol Vukelich indicated that she has invited Achieve to offer a workshop on April 18 in Dover on evaluating lesson plans to identify improvements needed to better align the content with the Common Core State Standards. The Delaware Association of Colleges of Teacher Education asked Mark Murphy to speak on April 18th to describe the Delaware Department of Education's higher education initiatives. Carol will send out an invitation to professional education faculty to hold the date.

New Business

I. *Higher Education in Regards to Teacher Preparation and Licensing (Christopher Ruszkowski, Chief Officer of DDOE Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Unit)*

Christopher Ruszkowski joined the Council for a lively discussion of the Delaware Department of Education's view of teacher education programs' effectiveness. Christopher identified five defining pillars of effective teacher education programs and the changes the Department will be initiating.

1. **Increase selectivity.** The Delaware Department of Education is asking institutions of higher education to ensure that entry into their educator preparation programs is competitive. Districts and institutions of higher education should form partnerships and share accountability for alumni's impact on student learning. Finally, the Delaware Department of Education would like to join teacher education faculty in examining candidates' performance.
2. **Redefining the clinical experience.** Teacher education candidates should have a continuous clinical experience from entry into their program through graduation. While the Department is open to different definitions of continuous practice, more is considered to be better. The aim is to prepare graduates who are "first day ready." There should be a seamless transition from graduation to teaching. What is the institution doing to ensure that this is the case? Reportedly, districts do not feel that this is the case currently.
3. **Transparency in data reporting and accountability.** Institutions of higher education must take an active role in monitoring its graduates' impact on students' learning after their graduation. That data is *the* data that matters in determining the program's quality.
4. **Ongoing evaluation of candidates.** Institutions must engage in the ongoing evaluation of candidates and must be willing to make the difficult decision of removing candidates who are not achieving the program's goal of being able to demonstrate impact on students' learning or of delaying their graduation until they are adequately prepared. The Department likes the Teach for America (TFA) model. The Department and the TFA leadership meet regularly to assess how the candidates are progressing. TFA can sort its candidates into four levels of competence.
5. **Model for continuous refinement.** Based on the gathered data, institutions of higher education must be willing to make changes to their programs.

In response to specific questions, Christopher responded that the Praxis I and II cut scores were set some years ago and may need to be revisited; exit criteria, like the Teacher Performance Assessment exhibit, is being discussed; changes to the requirement that institutions for higher education submit program review reports and seek national recognition is dependent upon the new CAEP requirements; no decision has been made yet regarding eliminating salary increases for master's degrees; there will be new ways for teachers to earn extra dollars; and Human Capital Analytics will be releasing data on institutions' graduates in March or April.

II. *Display of Candidate Performance Data for NCATE (Barbara VanDornick)*

Tabled until the March meeting

III. *Professional Education Awards (Barbara VanDornick)*

Tabled until the March meeting

IV. *School of Education Program Approval (Laura Glass)*

A. M.Ed. in Teacher Leadership

This program was created to replace the Master of Instruction program for certified inservice teachers. Candidates will specialize in leadership and develop new understandings of the Common Core Standards. UCTE unanimously approved the program.

B. Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) (Revision)

The Council unanimously approved the revisions to the MAT.

V. *Clearances in the Fall (Carol Vukelich)*

Earlier the Council approved a motion that, effective fall semester, all candidates going into a practicum experience would complete a full Federal background check. Dr. Laura Glass asked that the Council reconsider and allow candidates going to a community center to complete the online background check. This would allow freshmen Elementary Teacher Education candidates to register for EDUC 205 in the fall semester. The Council approved Dr. Glass's request to modify the earlier motion. The Council unanimously agreed to allow candidates who are going to a practicum experience in a community center to complete the online version of the background check.

The Council also unanimously agreed that all candidates going to all practicum placements must provide proof of a negative TB assessment.

Carol Vukelich also announced that Christina School District will require all candidates seeking a practicum placement in the district to be cleared through a full Federal background check. Therefore, to date, two districts, Christina and Colonial, will allow no one in its buildings without clearance through a Federal background check. The Christina School District also is setting limits on the number of student teachers who may be assigned to the district.

UCTE adjourned at 4:40 p.m.