

University Council on Teacher Education
Minutes for May 8, 2013
1:30-3:30
200 Academy Street

Members Present: Janice Bibik, Suzanne Burton, Michelle Cirillo, Ralph Ferretti, Laura Glass, Barry Joyce, Lynn Okagaki, Joe Pika, Barbara VanDornick, Carol Vukelich, Lynn Worden, Linda Zankowsky

Members Excused: Gabrielle Guadagnino

Guest Present: Cindy Holland

The March minutes were approved as distributed, with one abstention.

Announcements

I. UCTE University-Wide Professional Education Awards

Barbara VanDornick distributed a list of students who were selected for the UCTE University-wide professional education awards.

II. Project Search (Cindy Holland)

Cindy Holland reported on the 35th annual UD Teacher Job Fair. Project Search had a record number of school districts participate this year, with 50 more recruiters than last year. The success of the day signifies that UD's fair is one of the top in the area. There were some cancellations or no-shows on the day of the event, some due to local referendum results.

There were two new feature this year: (1) The Project Search planning team allowed UD students into the building 1½ hours before non-UD students. This provided the students with time with the recruiters first. (2) Due to the increased costs associated with renting The Bob, the day for Delaware districts was eliminated.

Of the 140 responses from the 700 plus student participants – 64% were satisfied or very satisfied. Sixty-nine percent of the respondents reported having 1-5 interviews. Seven of the respondents reported signing contracts, while others have follow-up interviews scheduled.

Responses from employers also were very positive.

Barbara VanDornick requested faculty to alert her when they learn that one of their students secured employment or decided to attend graduate school. She needs the information for NCATE reporting and for updating the website on the percentage of employed graduates.

III. Praxis II

Barbara Van Dornick reported that the Praxis II Elementary Teacher Education and Early Childhood Education candidates will be required to take for Delaware K-6 certification is changing. In addition, candidates will be required to pass each of the content area subsections. A total score across the four content areas no longer will be accepted. The new testing requirement will take effect September 1, but the former Praxis II scores will be accepted until December 2013.

Old Business

I. Become a Partner with the MET Extension Project (Carol Vukelich)

Carol Vukelich presented the group with a proposal to become a partner with the University of Michigan's MET project. This is a Bill Gates sponsored projects that Dean Deborah Ball directs. Participation involves faculty requiring their students to code video tapes of grades 4-9 English language arts and mathematics teachers teaching using a strategy known to have a positive impact on student learning. The intent of the project is to create a searchable library of video materials on high quality teaching.

There is no monetary value to the partnership, but the idea is that it will benefit our students to carefully watch the vignettes in order to code them and then discuss their findings. In exchange for our partnership, we will then have access to this library of material.

After discussion, Carol suggested that members re-read the handout from the March meeting and then email her thoughts about whether UD wanted to pursue this partnership. Ralph Ferretti provided the following link to additional information on this project: <http://www.metproject.org/faq.php>

New Business

I. Strengthening Educator Preparation Proposal (Carol Vukelich)

Carol Vukelich reported that a group, composed of Lynn Worden, Joe Pika, Laura Glass, Ralph Ferretti, Barbara VanDornick and herself, is working on a proposal in response to the RFP issued by the Delaware Department of Education. The proposal is due by the end of May. The total funding is expected to be \$600,000 and will be split among the four Delaware teacher education higher education institutions. Given that UD graduates the largest number of preservice teachers, we expect to receive the largest portion of the funds. We expect to learn whether or not our proposal is funded in July.

II. Draft Legislation (Carol Vukelich)

The Delaware Senate passed Senate Bill No. 51 with amendments. The legislation now goes to the House. It is likely that there will be changes initiated by House representatives. Governor Markell says full approval should be expected by the end of June.

The bill focuses on more stringent requirements for entrance into teaching programs, ongoing evaluation of students, and an exit requirement. In addition, it requires “clinical residencies” of no less than 10 weeks for each program and that student teachers work with quality educators in quality partnership placements. Programs will also have more frequent reporting and assessment requirements.

The proposed legislation is expected to be effective September 2014.

II. Teaching and Learning Cadre (Carol Vukelich)

Michael Watson is the new Chief Academic Officer for the Delaware Department of Education. All Delaware districts, except the Red Clay Consolidated School District, have joined with the Department in the creation of plans to ensure the implementation of Common Core State Standards in their classrooms. Each school paid \$500 per teacher to join the initiative; each school sent a team of three teachers and administrators. The project also is funded by the Gates Foundation.

This last meeting of the academic year was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.