

University Council on Teacher Education
Minutes for April 23, 2014
9:00-12:00
200 Academy Street

Members Present: Janice Bibik, Michelle Cirillo, Ralph Ferretti, Laura Glass, Gemelle John, Barry Joyce, Matthew Kinservik, Lynn Okagaki, Cynthia Paris, Kate Scantlebury, Barbara VanDornick, Carol Vukelich, Linda Zankowsky

The March minutes were approved as distributed.

Announcements

- I. *UCTE Professional Education Award Recipients for 2014 (Barbara VanDornick)***
Barbara VanDornick distributed the list of candidates who were selected for the UCTE university-wide professional education awards.

Old Business

- I. *Senate Bill No. 51 (Regulation 290) (Carol Vukelich)***
- Discussion of the Survey of the Common Core State Standards and Delaware Educational Technology Standards for Leaders and Teachers

Carol Vukelich encouraged the Council to consider obtaining an audit of the degree of implementation of the Common Core State Standards in our teacher education programs. Because the Delaware Department of Education has adopted new Educational Technology Standards and programs will be required to show evidence of their inclusion of these standards in their programs, Barbara VanDornick recommended the inclusion of technology in the audit. After discussion, the Council unanimously agreed to the audit and directed Carol to ask Joan Buttram to design a plan for this audit to share with the Council at its September 2014 meeting.

Barbara VanDornick suggested that the course catalog could have a generic statement indicating that our programs are addressing current standards.

- II. *Proposed Educator Preparation Accountability Metrics (Carol Vukelich)***
Carol Vukelich distributed materials for the Council to read carefully regarding the proposed Educator Preparation Accountability metrics. She asked Council members to contact her with their concerns, with a rationale for each concern.

- III. *Discussion of Regulation 290 (Carol Vukelich)***
The following items were discussed and motions were proposed:

- All university student teaching supervisors must have an active certificate in the field(s) in which they are supervising.

As the Council requested at an earlier meeting, the Delaware Center for Teacher Education conducted an audit this semester to gather information on the consistency between UD student teaching supervisors' certifications and the discipline areas they supervised. According to CAEP, student teaching supervisors must be of "high quality". The Council discussed the following:

-What does it mean to be a certified discipline-specific educator? In Delaware, teachers must renew their license to teach. Teachers receive a certificate indicating what they are able to teach. CAEP requires that student teaching supervisors must be certified in the specific subject(s) they supervise.

-Do adjuncts have to be actively certified? According to the CAEP definition, yes.

-How do we ensure that we have knowledgeable people supervising our student teachers, and that they are aware of current instructional strategies? We can set a policy that all programs are responsible for ensuring that their supervisors are certified in the specific discipline(s) they supervise, and we can require program coordinators to provide evidence that they ensure that their student teaching supervisors know current content and instructional strategies.

The Council unanimously approved the following motions:

- **Effective fall 2014, all student teaching supervisors must be certified in the discipline(s) they supervise.**
- **Effective fall 2014, all program coordinators must provide evidence that any student teaching supervisor whose certificate was issued more than seven years ago knows the discipline's current content and instructional strategies. Program coordinators must provide a description of what they have done to ensure that each supervisor is knowledgeable of current content and instructional strategies.**
- **By January 1, 2015, university student teaching supervisors and cooperating teachers will participate in mentor training.**
The Council discussed how to address the CAEP requirement that supervisors and cooperating teachers must be trained in how to serve as a mentor to student teachers. Barbara VanDornick reported that the districts' human resource directors would like the training to be a common training, one with content appropriate for all Delaware higher education institutions. Laura Glass indicated that she would bring this request to DACTE to ascertain the group's interest in developing a shared mentor training program. Carol Vukelich asked for volunteers to form a committee to hunt for online modules or to develop a draft of an online module.
- **Effective September 2014, to receive the institutional recommendation, candidates must earn a passing score on the content area test in their discipline required by the State of Delaware.**

In the past, we allowed candidates to graduate and receive the institutional recommendation without their passing the state's content knowledge test; candidates merely had to take the test. However, now the successful passing of the state-designated content knowledge test is required by the Department of Education for program approval. Effective this coming fall, for candidates to receive an institutional recommendation, they must have passed the Praxis II test designated by the state in their content area. Candidates can graduate without passing Praxis II, but they will not receive the institutional recommendation. In essence, candidates who do not pass the Praxis II test in their content area will not have completed the university's approved program.

- **Upon completion of 60 credit hours, a minimum overall GPA and major GPA set by each program's faculty, and passing scores on the Core Academic Skills for Educators tests, each candidate will be cleared for continued enrollment in upper-level education courses.**

Tracking program "cohorts" has become increasingly important for the various reports that the university must file. While education candidates are admitted to an education program upon their admission to the university, in many programs, they do not begin taking teacher education courses until after they have completed 60 credit hours. Their early credit hours mostly are arts and science credits. The Council unanimously approved Barbara VanDornick's proposal that teacher education program cohorts will be defined as those who meet the criteria identified in the motion.

UCTE did not approve the following motion:

- **Effective fall 2014, the University of Delaware's student teaching evaluation form will be DPAS II.**

As per the state's new Regulation 290, the university's student teaching evaluation must align with all components of DPAS II. Given the constraints and the rapidly approaching timeline for implementation, the proposal set forth was to switch to the use of DPAS II as the student teaching. Kate Scantlebury raised several concerns about DPAS II's appropriateness as the student teaching evaluation tool. For example, changes would need to be made to several of the rubrics because they are not appropriate for undergraduates who are not yet teachers. Whichever evaluation tool is selected, every program must provide data on candidates' performance on items linked to the student teaching evaluation instrument, and these data must be provided in the annual program report submitted to the Department of Education. Data must be reported for candidates from their first year in the program until they graduate. Every program needs to have an evaluation system in place by next fall. After much discussion, the Council agreed that in the Fall 2014, UD teacher education programs will continue using Pathwise. Carol and Barbara will work on an alignment study and distribute this information to the Council.

Because of the failure to the above motion, the following motions were not discussed:

- By fall 2014, each program's faculty will identify which elements of DPAS II will be used to assess candidates' performance during early field experiences. As required by the Delaware Department of Education for continued program approval, data must be provided each year.
- By September 1, 2014, all university supervisors will complete training in DPAS II.
- All cooperating teachers who are not knowledgeable about DPAS II will be training in this student teaching evaluation instrument.

New Business

I. FEPS Update (Linda Zankowsky)

Tabled until May.

II. DOE "Join Delaware Schools" (Barry Joyce)

Barry Joyce raised concerns about the items on the online Teach in Delaware recommendation form. The form implies that the district may not consider an applicant if his/her references do not respond. Carol will invite Tasha Cannon from the Department of Education to the next UCTE meeting to address our concerns and questions.

III. Office of Teacher Licensure at Vanderbilt (Barbara VanDornick)

To alert students to the ever-changing licensure scene, the Council approved the following motion:

UD students must meet licensure requirements at the time of their graduation, which may be different from licensure requirements in effect at the time they entered the University of Delaware. Licensure requirements may change from year to year. Each year, teacher licensure candidates should consult the information posted on the University of Delaware Teacher Education website. For additional information regarding teacher licensure, contact Barbara VanDornick at (302)831-3000.

This should be in the catalog, the Teacher Ed website, and the various programs' websites.

UCTE adjourned at 11:50 am.