

**University Council on Teacher Education**  
**Minutes for May 25, 2021**  
**12:30 – 2:30**  
**Via Zoom**

**Members Present:** Tia Barnes, Suzanne Burton, Duane Cottrell, Gary Henry, Steff Kotch-Jester, Chrystalla Mouza, Krissy Najera, Kristin Nelson, Diana Roscoe, Carol Wong

**Not Present:** Jenna Dean

**Guests:** Jamie Bailey, Christine Gorowara, Nichole Hitchner, Tory McHugh, Marie Peters

The April 27, 2021, minutes were unanimously approved.

**Announcements**

1. Education Meet-up Event (Nichole Hitchner)

- Nichole presented the Career Center's past education events statistics and the new plan for our teacher education students. They had currently held Education Meetups in the Fall and a Delaware Recruitment Fair in the Spring. The new plan for the 2021-2022 year will be in the Fall to hold a Delaware Education Week with a proposed date of November 15-19 which is American Education Week. This will include "Industry Insight Nights" to highlight Delaware schools through panels, information sessions, and other topics. In the Spring, they will hold the Education Meetups which are open to all education opportunities and locations with a proposed date in March. As of right now, the Fall events will be virtual and hopefully the Spring could be in-person. Nichole stated that she is open to any feedback and suggestions to make these events a success for our students. A few suggestions were made such as: to promote the event so that the students understand what they will gain from attending the events. Also, to include early childhood schools that handle birth to Pre-K so it would benefit our Early Childhood students. Tory who works closely with students will reach out to Nichole over the summer to collaborate. Nichole will be in touch with the group as they begin planning.

2. Certification Update (Tory McHugh)

- Tory reviewed that we are still under Delaware waiver regarding institutional recommendation. She is currently meeting with students and helping them as they decide what state they wish to teach, and the requirements needed for that state. The process of certification forms is 8 weeks in Delaware.
- Tory reviewed a proposed a change in the Institutional Recommendation Policy. Tracking these students for a year has become a consistent problem as we have to move students in and out of cohorts. It takes a lot of man hours and effort. Tory has been working with students to complete their Praxis II tests before their senior year to lessen the work that has to be completed senior year.

- The proposed changes are below in red:
- *Candidates must earn a passing score on the content area test (e.g., Praxis Subject Assessment, formerly known as Praxis II) in their discipline required by the State of Delaware to receive the institutional recommendation for certification (effective September 2014). **Removing: Candidates must pass this content area test within one year of their graduation date to receive the institutional recommendation for certification (effective December 8, 2014) and replacing with: Candidates must pass this content area test by June 30 of the academic year in which they graduate to receive the institutional recommendation for certification. (i.e., Students graduating Summer 21, Fall 21, Winter 22, Spring 22 must complete by June 30, 2022.)***
- *Candidates must earn a passing score on a performance assessment required by the State of Delaware to receive institutional recommendation for certification. This assessment must be scored by certified reviewers who are not employees of the University of Delaware. Candidates must earn the passing score within one year of their graduation date to receive institutional recommendation. (Effective July 1, 2016) **Remove this entire performance assessment section.***
- If the performance assessment legislation passes, we would like to send this out for electronic voting this summer. We would like this policy to be in place for the upcoming academic year **with robust student messaging.**
- **ACTION: UCTE Members are to take this information back to their units for feedback and please forward any feedback to Krissy or Tory. We would like to send an electronic vote out over the summer.**

## New Business

1. New Capstone Vote (Krissy Najera)
  - Krissy reviewed that at the April UCTE Meeting, Marie and Jamie presented the Capstone Committees decision to implement the DDOE Teacher Observation Tool to replace the current Capstone Evaluation. UCTE members were charged with taking this information back to their units for feedback. The feedback was all positive. One concern was that the instrument does not appear to assess candidates' use of culturally responsive pedagogical practices. Jamie clarified that the reason it is not in the evaluation tool is that when completing classroom observations, the majority are not seeing this in the classroom. It was discussed intensively with the committee and being that DDOE's timeline to introduce and train for culturally responsive practices, we had to remove that item for now. There is always an option to add it as an addendum. Another note was to keep in mind this tool is for in-service teachers, so we need to tailor for preservice teachers.
  - **New Capstone was unanimously approved.**

- **ACTION: Decide on when pilot will be implemented, edit student handbooks, training, etc. Marie has a checklist of what needs to be completed and will work with team to outline next steps.**
2. Review DACTE Meeting (Christine Gorowara)
- Christine reviewed the last DACTE Meeting of the year and that it was her last meeting as president. The new president is Delayne Johnson from Delaware State. Jinni Forcucci, the Teacher Academy director, presented on Teacher Academy where she embarked on a listening tour of teacher academy instructors. She is bringing a social justice orientation to teacher academy. She has also put together a council of students to hear from the students on their vision of what a Delaware teacher should look like. This is a great idea and something we should do as well, to think about what a UD teacher looks like.
  - One topic that has been talked about is how to make getting a teacher education affordable to teacher academy students. One way for programs to be more affordable is to offer dual enrollment options credits. Most other institutions in Delaware offer dual enrollment. One reason UD has not offered dual enrollment for education is there is no one course that can be offered across programs. UCTE should consider developing a universal course to be able acceptable to all programs to offer the dual enrollment option. Suzanne Burton is the UD liaison to the Department of Education's work on dual enrollment. She stated they are in the process of investigating what some institutions are doing and what UD is not and the whole idea of access is a huge part and dual enrollment is one way to give students greater access and bring them into the teaching profession. It also gives them a connection to UD if they are taking dual enrollment courses at UD. We need to have more discussions around dual enrollment and maybe work with Jinni Forcucci and her teacher academy teachers to offer a course and possibly co-teach the course, like a learning to learn elective course. Also, the recruitment factor needs to be considered.
3. 2021-2022 UCTE Members
- Krissy reviewed that the following members time has expired, and we are asking for your replacement or will you remain for another year.
    - Elementary – Steff Kotch-Jester will remain.
    - SOE Graduate – Carol Wong will remain.
    - Early Childhood – Lynn Worden will join in place of Tia Barnes.
  - **ACTION: We will need suggestions for an Undergraduate and Graduate student. Please forward names to Debbie Ziomek asap.**
  - **ACTION: Krissy will send out a doodle poll to determine the best day and time to hold the Fall UCTE Meetings.**

**Meeting adjourned 1:55 pm.**