

University Council on Teacher Education
Minutes for February 15, 2022
9:00 – 10:30
Zoom

Members Present: Suzanne Burton, Duane Cottrell, Gary Henry, Steff Kotch-Jester, Katie Joynt, Tory McHugh, Krissy Najera, Kristin Nelson, Diana Roscoe, Brooke Surgan, Carol Wong, Lynn Worden

Members Absent: Jen Gallo-Fox, Chrystalla Mouza

Guests: Christine Gorowara

The December 15, 2021, minutes were unanimously approved.

Announcements

1. Teacher of the Year Event – Tuesday, February 22nd – Virtual Fireside Chat
 - Invitations were sent to the 2021 and 2022 teachers of the year and due to lack of responses from the teachers, we decided to cancel the Fireside Chat. We feel the teachers have a lot on their plates, so we will plan to have an in-person event next year.

2. Substitutes for Districts (Krissy Najera/Steff Kotch-Jester)
 - Krissy explained the need for substitutes in the districts is a growing concern. We brainstormed ideas for how to help our students navigate substitute teaching. Steff explained that we will have a draft this week from the support staff in the Dean’s office. We have compiled the information from each district regarding substitute teaching and we will have a website that will provide students with information regarding substitute teaching. Another idea was to perhaps have a Substitute Fair, similar to the Meet-ups, where districts can come and provide information regarding the school districts and the types of substitutes they need. We aim to have the website up and running in about two weeks. There were concerns regarding transportation to schools for students that do not have cars. There are several schools within walking distance and UD has an Enterprise CarShare option:
<https://sites.udel.edu/transportation/alltrans/>

3. IR Policy Approved Revisions (Tory McHugh)
 - Tory reviewed the Institutional Recommendation Policy that was discussed at the October 28th UCTE meeting. An electronic vote was sent to UCTE members and received unanimous approval. We will begin to update our documentation and websites. Tory will begin messaging the students.

New Institutional Recommendation Policy

- 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). Starting in Fall of 2022, candidates must pass this content area test by the first June 30 following graduation from the associated program (i.e., students graduating Summer 2022, Fall 2022, Winter 2023, Spring 2023 must complete by June 30, 2023). Waivers to this policy may be considered by the Certification Officer in cases of documentable illness, emergency, bereavement or with documentation of repeated attempted passage of certification examinations. Requests for waiver must be made, in writing and with appropriate documentation, to the Certification Officer no later than May 1 (Effective November 2021)
- Remove performance assessment section (Effective November 2021)

New Business

- UCTE Mission (Krissy Najera)
 - Krissy discussed that after last UCTE meeting when we were approving program changes there were some questions regarding the process. So, wondering if this council could be doing more for teacher education at UD. Krissy reviewed the bylaws, and it seems we do a lot of program change approvals, and we oversee and amend policies but sounds like we should be doing more to oversee teacher prep in general. This council should be more proactive and be more involved in what programs are doing and better align with districts. So, to dig into this, we should engage in some type of deliberative process for looking more closely at the responsibilities in the bylaws. What does that process look like, what standards and criteria should be used to develop these processes and provide feedback, should we use protocols, could UCTE be the body that oversees strategic goal work and the processes for implementation? These are questions that came to mind in thinking about what UCTE does and what it is we are supposed to do.
 - Feedback was very positive and that we should look at the role and processes of UCTE. Several feel there are bigger picture items that we should be handling. Do we have the right balance of coursework for our students to be effective in the field? Are we doing enough for continuous improvement? Having outside perspective on our programs and sharing information between programs would be welcomed. Others suggested that UCTE take an active role in the legislative process. Also, suggested

to hear from faculty and collaborate with all faculty to get their input to the proposed questions. It was suggestion to organize a committee with representatives from each program to address these questions and big picture problematic issues.

- **ACTION: Krissy to work with everyone to develop a representative committee to start talking about the mission and the processes to get us there to present a united front for teacher education.**

- Delaware - CAEP State Agreement (Christine Gorowara)
 - Christine discussed the CAEP State Agreement. Substantive changes from the default template include:
 - In 1.4, programs within the scope of CAEP accreditation are defined to be only those leading to institutional recommendation
 - Section 2 and Section 3 make clear that CAEP's role is to accredit while DDOE's role is to approve programs leading to institutional recommendation, and in Section 3 and elsewhere it is clear that while DDOE will consider CAEP accreditation as a factor in determining program approval, DDOE has sole approval authority
 - Section 4.12 includes three options for program *review* (not the same thing as program approval) that DDOE will recognize for CAEP accreditation—SPA review (which previously was the only option in Delaware), approval through a state process, and CAEP Evidence Review of Standard 1
 - Section 10.3 indicates that in the event of a conflict between CAEP and DDOE policy, Delaware code and regulation will prevail (the template agreement indicated that CAEP policy would prevail)
 - If anyone has any feedback or questions, please let Christine know by today.

- DDOE Scorecards (Christine Gorowara)
 - Christine discussed that at the end of January, the DDOE Scorecards are typically released. Rob Grey sent us the scorecards to preview, however, he sent the 2016 summary report and there were various typos in the other reports. All the EPPs agreed they would like DDOE to correct the errors before publication, rather than adhering to the usual publication schedule. Rob stated that it would take a few weeks because they short staffed. The scorecards have not been published yet, but we will have 8 published. Christine reviewed the scorecard summary. Of the 8 programs, all are renewed or renewed with conditions. The priority of DDOE is to get the scorecards that are to be published corrected, then work on the programs that did not generate a report due to low enrollment. DDOE does meet with EPPs to review the scorecards. Gary suggested that we should dive deeper into the data and converse about how we can get our concerns relayed to DDOE by offering solutions to our metrics.

- **ACTION: Will add the review of DDOE Scorecards to next month's UCTE Meeting as long as there are no other agenda items to allow enough time to review.**

Old Business

1. Review PECB Revisions – need to vote (Tory McHugh)
 - Tory reviewed the issue from last meeting concerning the PECB Policy and confidentiality. Below is what was proposed:
 - Current policy: To maintain confidentiality. The nature and status of any case may be discussed only with other members and those directly affected by the candidates' sanction (e.g., program coordinator, department chair).
 - *Proposed Change: Where a concern for student wellbeing arises within a PECB hearing and with the unanimous agreement of the present PECB members, the Certification Officer may issue an alert to the Dean of Students via Blue Hen Success Collaborative.*
 - Since our last meeting, Tory has met with Michael Fernbacher from Student Conduct. It turns out that a lot of what the PECB was concerned about is being handled by Student Conduct. They refer students to the student counseling services and situations involving substance abuse get reported out to the Access Center.
 - Tory will take this information back to PECB to discuss as we probably don't need to make any policy changes.

Meeting adjourned 10:24 am