

University Council on Teacher Education
Minutes for April 24, 2006
10:00-12:00
200 Academy Street

Members Present: Tim Barnekov, Chris Clark, Penny Deiner, Joan DeFattore, Laura Glass, Jessica Kozzi, Bonnie Robb, Gail Rys, Barbara VanDornick, Carol Vukelich

Members Excused: John Burmeister, Joseph Pika, Janet Smith

Guests Present: Deb Alvarez, Angela Case, Richard Donham, Patricia Scott, Deb Bieler

The minutes from March 22, 2006 were unanimously approved.

Announcement

Carol Vukelich announced that Angela Case will be retiring in September (November 1, official last day) and Chris Clark will be retiring in July and relocating to Phoenix.

Old Business

- I. Course of Study for Middle School Science Teachers (Richard Donham)*
Richard Donham presented two Courses of Study for middle school science teachers. The first Course of Study includes six science content courses, from which middle school teachers may select five courses. These courses address the science content standards. This Course of Study will provide teachers a better understanding of the science content that they teach. The second proposal includes science content and pedagogy courses. This Course of Study provides the opportunity for teachers to take curriculum courses. (This is an option developed for those teachers who do not need credits in science content for “highly qualified” status purposes). These two courses of study are strictly for middle school teachers, though they may be appropriate for some high school teachers, like teacher of special education students. Requests from high school teachers will be dealt with individually.

UCTE unanimously approved the Middle School Science Teacher Courses of Study.

- II. Unit Assessment Systems (Patricia Scott)*
UCTE continued the discussion of a disposition policy and procedures. (See the attached document for a copy of the latest draft.) After considerable discussion and several additional suggestions for revision, members decided to delay approval of the policy and procedures until the University of Delaware lawyers had an opportunity to comment on this version of the policy and the procedures. Patricia Scott will forward the document to the lawyers for their review and comment.

New Business

I. English Education Program Changes (Joan DeFattore)

Joan DeFattore presented the English Education program changes. The changes are basically a rearrangement of the English courses due to the extensive renumbering of courses occurring within the department.

UCTE unanimously approved the English Education program changes.

II. Recommended Change in Wording of Institutional Recommendation (Barbara VanDornick)

Currently, the following wording appears on candidates' transcripts:

NCATE Accredited Professional Education Programs

Certification(s) (with grade levels specified)

Barbara recommended that the wording on candidates' transcript be changed to
NCATE Accredited Professional Education Unit
Approved Professional Education Program(s)

Note that the recommended revision drops a reference to specific grade levels. These changes were recommended to more accurately reflect our accreditation status and because, regardless of what is indicated on the transcript, states determine the grades for which the candidates will be certified. Penny Deiner expressed concern that the field often questions what early childhood education means and therefore grade designations for her candidates were helpful. However, she agreed to try the revision and assess the consequences in future years. Barbara stated that the change will be implemented next year, after People Soft is operating.

UCTE unanimously approved the recommended changes.

III. Grade Point Average Policy (Carol Vukelich)

The current policy states that each program faculty set their own grade point average requirement for entry into student teaching which is approved by UCTE, and program faculty determine which and under what conditions candidates are eligible for a variance from the stated policy. The question was raised regarding the appropriateness of an individual deciding on a variance from an approved policy. After much discussion on the topic, it was decided that program coordinators would report to UCTE on variances from their program's stated GPA policy. Data regarding the number and reason for such variances will be presented to UCTE annually.

UCTE unanimously approved the change.

IV. Social Studies Course of Study (Fran O'Malley)

The Social Studies Course of Study will provide teachers with content knowledge background in social studies. The courses in the Course of Study address the four social studies areas (civics, economics, geography, and history), and the courses' content address the state's social studies education standards. Most of the courses proposed will be offered this summer. Teachers are required to receive a grade of 2.0 or better in each course and a minimum GPA of 3.0 or better over the five courses.

UCTE unanimously approved this Course of Study.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30.