

**University Council on Teacher Education**  
**Minutes for May 21, 2008**  
**10:00-12:00**  
**200 Academy Street**

**Members Present:** Timothy Barnekov, Nancy Brickhouse, Laura Glass, John Hartman, Barry Joyce, Joseph Pika, Gail Rys, Barbara VanDornick, Carol Vukelich, Lynn Worden

**Members Absent:** Janice Bibik, Suzanne Burton

**Members Excused:** Martha Ford

**Guests Present:** Rob Grey, Arba Henry, James Rath

The minutes of December 19, 2007 and February 20, 2008 were approved unanimously.

Announcement

- I. Spring Enrollment Reports (Barbara VanDornick)  
The data show a drop in the number of teacher education candidates from fall semester; this is due to mid-year graduations and students transferring out of teacher education programs.
- II. University-wide Honors Day Awards (Barbara VanDornick)  
Barbara VanDornick distributed a list of teacher education candidates who received UCTE-selected awards. Lynn Worden noted the variability in the number of student teaching awards given by programs and questioned whether there should be a UCTE policy so that the same percentage of student teachers in each program would receive this award. After discussion, UCTE members agreed to allow each program to award the Outstanding Student Teacher Award to as many student teachers as are deserving of the award.
- III. Project Search (Barbara VanDornick & John Hartman)  
Project Search brought 357 recruiters from 155 school districts/organizations in 10 states (plus the Peace Corps and Korea) to meet with 1,170 students/alumni and conduct 5,296 interviews. These numbers reflect a decrease in activity compared to last year. This is most likely directly attributed to the announcement of impending state budget cuts (which was made public five days before Project Search). Five Delaware public school districts canceled their attendance, many sent fewer recruiters, and several chose to collect resumes but not interview candidates.
- IV. Beginning Teacher Salaries (Barbara VanDornick)  
Barbara distributed data regarding starting salaries for teachers. Districts attending Project Search provided this information. Analysis of the information revealed that Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania now provide a starting salary above \$40,000 while Delaware's starting salary is lower.

## New Business

- I. Dispositions Update (John Hartman)  
John Hartman described the Office of Clinical Studies' implementation of the newly-developed professionalism policy with undergraduate teacher education candidates.
- II. Student Teacher 'Satisfaction' Survey Data from Fall 2007 (John Hartman)  
John Hartman announced that the Office of Clinical Studies is piloting a shift from a paper survey to the use of Survey Monkey. Fall 2007 data suggest that across all programs candidates appeared less satisfied with their student teaching experience compared to fall 2005 and 2006 student teachers' survey results. Lynn Worden noted that the percentages probably were not significantly different. The Council suggested that as the form is transferred to Survey Monkey OCS should provide space to obtain the candidates' comments, particularly for low ratings.
- III. Field Experience Fees (Carol Vukelich)  
Currently, student teachers pay a one-time \$75 student teaching fee. This money goes to a general University fund. The University provides an account which the Office of Clinical Studies uses to reimburse supervisors for their travel costs and pay cooperating teachers a modest honorarium. Carol Vukelich proposed (a) increasing the student teaching fee, and (b) charging a practicum fee for each course in which there is a practicum. The Office of Clinical Studies would use the funds generated by the practicum fee to pay site supervisors. Tim Barnekov cautioned the Council to delay action on this matter because of the new budget system to be implemented during 2009-2010. After considerable discussion, the Council decided to revisit this topic in the fall and to bring in a consultant to describe the new budget system and its potential impact on the funding of field experiences.
- IV. Fall 2008 Offers of Admission (Barbara VanDornick)  
Barbara presented the minority admission data for fall 2008. There is an increase in the overall number of minority teacher education candidates compared to last year. The Minority Task Force monitored the admission process closely. Nancy Brickhouse reported that the number of Elementary Teacher Education candidates who were admitted and accepted the offer of admission for fall 2008 is down. Lynn Worded reported that the number of Early Childhood Education candidates admitted who accepted the offer of admission also is down. The Council hypothesized that the cause is the University's admission procedures. The Council decided that Carol should invite Lou Hirsh to discuss the University's admission procedures in the fall.
- V. Research Summary on Teacher Education (James Rath)  
Jim Rath and a colleague have been engaged in the study of reports aimed at improving the quality of teacher education published in the last 90 years. Based on this review, Dr. Rath presented a list of 14 recommendations for inexpensive improvements to teacher education. (See attachment for the list of suggestions.)

The Council adjourned at 12:00.