

University Council on Teacher Education

Agenda for May 9, 2005

2:00-4:00

217 Willard Hall

Members Present: John Burmeister, Chris Clark, Joan DeFattore, Alice Eyman, Laura Kincaid, Gail Rys, Janet Smith, Barbara VanDornick, Carol Vukelich, George Watson, Rachel Wilt

Members Absent: Tim Barnekov, Amanda Hess

Guests Present: Laura Eisenman, Barry Joyce, Carol Wong

he minutes from April 18, 2005 were approved unanimously.

Announcements

I. Paul Head, Director of Choral Studies in the Music Department, has received a University Excellence-in-Teaching award.

II. Alice Eyman will be retiring from the University on May 31. UCTE presented Alice with a gift for her many years of service on UCTE and her long-standing commitment to high quality teacher education.

Old Business

I. Increasing Stipend for Student Teacher Cooperating Teachers

Chris Clark asked about the status of the increase in the student teacher cooperating teacher stipend. Carol Vukelich agreed to check with Dean Barnekov on the status of the proposal.

New Business

I. Course of Study for Special Education (Gail Rys)

Severe Disabilities – The School of Education requested that the current 9-credit Course of Study be disestablished and a revised 15-credit Course of Study be put in its place. This Course of Study is primarily for people with a degree in special education seeking certification in severe disabilities.

Elementary or Secondary Special Education – The School of Education requested that the current 9-credit Course of Study be disestablished and a revised 15-credit Course of Study be put in its place. This 15-credit Course of Study will be sent to the Department of Education for approval as an ‘add-on’, allowing teachers to earn certification in special education.

Rachel Wilt questioned whether or not a teacher could substitute courses on the approved list if he/she had already taken the courses listed in the Course of Study as part of her/his master's program. Members decided that the special education faculty would consider such requests on an individual basis.

UCTE unanimously approved the above changes.

II. Secondary Education Enrollments (Joan DelFattore)

There has been a steady increase in the number of secondary education and K-12 candidates since the fall of 2001. There have been an insufficient number of seats in EDUC 413, 414, and 419 to accommodate sophomore and junior students seeking these courses because while the number of students has increased, the number of sections has not increased. To accommodate the overflow, the School of Education has offered sections in the winter and summer. This is not ideal because of the practicum components of these courses; the number of observations are cut from 14 to 5 weeks and January is 'testing time' in high schools. Because of the high demand for seats, the secondary and K-12 advisors have asked sophomore students to postpone taking the courses until their junior year. Now, there is a significant number of students needing the courses next year. (For additional details, see the attachment prepared by Dr. DelFattore.)

Questions were raised regarding enrollment caps. Joan believes this is not an appropriate response to the problem. Graduates are getting jobs because of the quality of our programs. Further, Joan questioned how the University would explain turning away prospective teachers in the critical need areas. In addition, the administration wants students' interests served.

School of Education Director Chris Clark indicated that there is a need for more instructors. The challenges of using part-time instructors to teach these courses were reiterated. Hiring a clinical faculty who could teach four sections per semester for a 2- to 3-year period would be the better solution. Chris suggested that Carol Wong and Laura Eisenman meet with him to develop a proposal to hire immediately a clinical faculty member for submission to Dean Barnekov.

UCTE unanimously approved the request for additional clinical faculty and supported Director Clark's move forward on developing a plan for submission to the Dean.

III. Math Education Enrollments (George Watson)

Following last month's UCTE meeting, Associate Dean George Watson checked on the numbers of math education candidates in the pipeline. His investigation revealed that these numbers soon will reach the 'double-digit' level. Secondary Education Math Coordinator Jinfa Cai is confident that the numbers will continue to grow.

In addition, George indicated that the agreement with Delaware Technical and Community College in mathematics education establishes a new pipeline for this program. Students will be admitted to the University as transfer students from Del. Tech. The first cohort of such students should arrive on campus in fall 2006. Discussion followed regarding the importance of these students taking the Praxis I exam. [Following the meeting, George checked with the Del. Tech.

administer of the program and learned that to graduate students must take and pass the Praxis I examination.]

The meeting adjourned at 3:15.