

University Council on Teacher Education
Minutes for November 18, 2008
1:00-3:00
200 Academy Street

Members Present: Janice Bibik, Michael Gamel-McCormick, John Hartman, Barry Joyce, Kathy Minke, Joe Pika, Gail Rys, Sarah Thomas, Barbara VanDornick, George Watson, Lynn Worden

Guests Present: Margaret Alexander, Araya Debessay, Arba Henry, Melva Ware

Members Excused: Suzanne Burton, Zoe Dane, Carol Vukelich

Minutes of October 22, 2008 were unanimously approved with the noted change that the aggregated pass rate over two years for Agriculture is 64.7%.

Old Business

I. Praxis II Data Program Completers (Barbara VanDornick)

Barbara distributed data from the past two years. Lynn Worden indicated that although the Early Childhood Education candidates take the Praxis II test in special education, this test is not required by the State of Delaware for certification in early childhood special education. Most of the programs are at 100% pass rate.

New Business

I. Task Force on Minority Teacher Education Recruitment (Margaret Andersen & Araya Debessay)

President Harker appointed the Diversity Task Force last spring semester.

The Task Force's charges are

- Review what the University is currently doing to promote diversity and what is needed to make it better.
- Discover what is being done at peer institutions. Identify best practices.
- Develop action steps.

The Task Force has received a huge amount of data and is in the process of writing its report. It will share its finding with President Harker on November 21.

Margaret Anderson indicated that the Diversity Task Force had reviewed the Report on Minority Teacher Education and was impressed with the retention rate in teacher education. The growing concern revolves around the number of new admits recruited into the teacher education programs. Melva Ware spoke about current initiatives that are being implemented, such as the Aspiring Teachers project. To continue these programs,

funding is needed for a full-time professional position, for program expenses, and for scholarships.

II. *Principals Survey Results (Barbara VanDornick)*

The results of the principals' survey were reviewed. The small number of responses was noted. John Hartman has agreed to assist in collecting data from principals in Delaware.

III. *Cooperating and Student Teacher Evaluations (John Hartman)*

Currently these surveys are completed through paper surveys, with a 70% response rate. John Hartman stated that in the future these surveys will be completed online, which hopefully will increase the response rate. Overall the responses were very positive. There was concern that one question needed rephrasing. The current question reads: *Do you feel that you will remain in the field of teaching for at least 5 years?* The suggestion was to change the question to: *Do you feel that you will remain in the field of education for at least 5 years?*

IV. *NCATE: To Delay Visit or Not (Barbara VanDornick)*

After a discussion of whether or not to delay the upcoming NCATE on-site visit the following motion was unanimously approved.

Programs will have the options of submitting the SPA reports September 15, 2009 or to delay until September 15, 2010. The NCATE on-site visit will be delayed until 2011.

Since the School Psychology program is approved through 2011, Kathy Minke raised the question of whether or not the School Psychology program needed to submit a report prior to 2011. Barbara will investigate and provide Kathy with a response.

Since the NCATE visit will be delayed, Michael Gamel McCormick requested a review of NCATE timeline and overall plan.

V. *Requiring Passing Praxis II of All Candidates (Barbara VanDornick)*

Current UCTE policy requires candidates to report scores on the Praxis II tests required by the State of Delaware or those designated by their program to receive the institutional recommendation for certification. Should we require our candidates to earn a passing score established by the State of Delaware to receive institutional recommendation? After some discussion, the members of UCTE did not voice support for changing the current policy.

VI. *ECE Program Changes (Lynn Worden)*

Currently, Early Childhood Education (ECE) majors are required to earn a C- or better in all HDFFS courses. The program submitted the following request for a change:

In addition to earning a C- or better in all HDFFS courses, ECE majors will be required to earn a C- or better in the following courses:

EDUC 210 Beginning Literacy Instruction
EDUC 230 Introduction to Exceptional Children
MUED 390 Music in Early Childhood.

The HDFS faculty considers these courses within the major. UCTE unanimously approved the changes.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45.