

University Council on Teacher Education

Minutes for October 18, 2004

10:00-12:00

217 Willard Hall

Members Present: Nancy Brickhouse, Timothy Barnekov, John Burmeister, Chris Clark, Joan DelFattore, Alice Eyman, Laura Kincaid, Janet Smith, Barbara VanDornick, Carol Vukelich, George Watson

Member Excused: Rachel Wilt

Members Absent: Amanda Hess

Guests Present: Angela Case, Penny Deiner, Danielle Ford, Deirdre Lilly, Gail Rys

The minutes from September 27, 2004 were approved as distributed.

Old Business

I. Content Area Knowledge Test (Carol Vukelich)

UCTE continued its discussion of the merits of requiring all candidates seeking certification to provide evidence that they had taken a state-designated certification test in their academic content field. Note that candidates would not be required to take a specifically-designated test. Because the majority of UD's candidates already take such a test, this requirement provides program coordinators with content knowledge data for NCATE/specialty organization reporting without placing a significant burden on candidates. For most candidates, implementation of this policy simply will require them to present evidence of their scores on the test. There are no consequences for poor performance—at least not at this time. In preparation for this continued discussion, Carol Vukelich contacted program coordinators and Barbara VanDornick prepared a table comparing the state-designated content knowledge tests required by neighboring states (see attached). Program coordinators responded very positively to the proposal, including program coordinators of master's degree programs. A question was raised about the possibility that UD could continue to use this 'menu' approach to the standardized assessment of candidates' content knowledge even after Delaware began to require Praxis II. Carol Vukelich will seek an answer to this question from NCATE. After considerable discussion, a motion to require candidates seeking initial certification to be required to show evidence of having taken a state-designated content area knowledge test was proposed and unanimously approved.

Discussion then shifted to how to implement the new policy. The UCTE decided, at the undergraduate level, to make this a prerequisite requirement for EDUC 400. This would make

the change a course change and would allow programs to implement the policy in the 2005-2006 academic year. UCTE agreed to be flexible in the implementation of this policy during the coming academic year –allowing candidates to begin student teaching without having provided evidence of meeting this stipulation. Coordinators of graduate programs will need to decide when to require candidates to demonstrate their content knowledge through a state-designated test; some program coordinators will need to process program changes.

II. Criminal Background Checks (Angela Case)

Candidates enrolled in teacher education programs are not required to complete a criminal background check. The State of Delaware requires a criminal background check for employees and volunteers. The following questions were posed to the University attorney: (1) Should UCTE require all teacher education majors to pass a criminal background check before entering the schools? (2) Should UCTE allow students whom it knows to have been rejected by a school district because of the outcome of a criminal background check to complete clinical placements and continue in a teacher education program?

The University lawyer provided the following responses: The University should not require criminal background checks of all teacher education candidates. Candidates are not required by law to pass a criminal background check prior to participating in clinical experiences in public schools. Having said that, the University lawyer pointed out that the University does ask all University applicants whether or not they have ever committed a crime and have a criminal record. Because state law does not require criminal background checks of teacher education candidates to work in public schools, the University should not supersede the law with its requirements. This action, of course, does not preclude individual districts or child care agencies from imposing their own criminal background policy. Discussion shifted to how programs inform candidates of the impact on their career as an educator of being unable to pass a criminal background check. Currently, candidates are alerted verbally of the impact of criminal behavior on their ability to secure a position in education. UCTE decided that candidates should be alerted in writing. UCTE requested Angela Case and Alice Eyman to use the University lawyer's comments to prepare a statement for UCTE approval that all programs coordinators will add to their program's website.

Regarding the second question, the University lawyer determined that if the University becomes aware of a candidate's criminal background, then it must disclose this information to the school districts in which it might place the candidate. The candidate should be informed that the University will take this action and that he/she may not be able to complete the program's requirements because of the University's inability to place him/her in a school setting.

III. Increasing Stipend for Student Teacher Cooperating Teachers (Nancy Brickhouse and Deirdre Lilly)

Chris Clark and Nancy Brickhouse co-presented a recommendation that the student teacher cooperating teacher stipend be increased to \$175/placement, regardless of the length of time of the placement. The University faces tremendous competition from other institutions in securing cooperating teachers for student teachers. This does represent a substantial increase (about

\$44,000/year) from what the University currently provides for cooperating teacher stipends. The question was raised whether or not the student teaching fee would be increased. Angela Case indicated that the University would not support an increase in the student teaching fee. This fee has remained the same for 25+ years. After considerable discussion, UCTE approved the motion to move forward with the recommendation to increase cooperating teacher student teaching stipends to \$175 per placement.

New Business

I. Program Changes for the Elementary Teacher Education Major (Danielle Ford)

Danielle Ford, Chair of the School of Education's CUSE Committee, presented the School of Education-approved changes to the Elementary Teacher Education program. She identified two reasons for the changes. (1) Until this summer, the Delaware Department of Education has been issuing two licenses to UD ETE graduates, one in K-4 and one in 5-8. This summer they replaced these licenses with a K-6 license and subject-specific 6-8 licenses. (2) The 6-8 licensure change took place in response to the new federal highly-qualified teacher regulation. The hope is that ETE graduates will be highly qualified and will be eligible to be certified in the content area of their choice. The hope is to have the program changes in place by fall 2005, effective with the incoming freshmen class. Dr. Ford detailed the changes to the program. ([See attached document.](#))

In addition to specific course changes, the faculty have proposed a change from two 9-week student teaching placements to two 8-week student placements. This will allow student teaching to be completed within one semester. Alice Eyman questioned whether or not ETE would now place candidates in kindergarten classrooms, something it has not done previously. Nancy Brickhouse indicated that this was not the intention of the program changes.

George Watson questioned where the focus would lessen for A&S courses. Dr. Brickhouse indicated that, in the general studies area, there would be a reduction in the History and Fine Arts areas. He requested data on the number of ETE candidates who had taken History and Fine Arts courses in past semesters so that he could consider resource need implications.

Following discussion, UCTE unanimously approved the program changes to the Elementary Teacher Education program.

II. Course of Study (Gail Rys)

Gail Rys presented the School of Education's list of graduate-level courses of study. UCTE considered Courses of Study in the following areas:

- School Leadership I for candidates who have taken no educational leadership classes. They would be required to take EDUC 640, 661, 664, 678, 693, and 694 for a total of 18 credits.
- School Leadership II. Candidates need to complete any three of the following six courses: EDUC 640, 661, 664, 678, 693, and 694 for a total of 9 credits.

- School Leadership III. Candidates need to complete three of the following six courses that have not already been completed in School Leadership II: EDUC 640, 661, 664, 68, 693, and 694 for a total of 9 credits.
- School Library Media I. Candidates need to complete any three of the following nine courses: EDUC 602, 603, 605 or 863, EDLM 621, 622, 625, 626, 628, 629 for a total of 9 credits.
- School Library Media II. Candidates need to complete three of the following nine courses that have not been completed in School Library Media I: EDUC 602, 603, 605 or 863, EDLM 621, 622, 625, 626, 628, and 629 for a total of 9 credits.
- School Library Media III. Candidates need to complete three of the following nine courses that have not already been completed in School Library Media I or II: EDUC 602, 603, 605 or 863, EDLM 621, 622, 625, 626, 628, and 629 for a total of 9 credits.
- Best Practices in Teaching Reading, Writing and Literature. Students would be required to complete: EDUC 602, 603, 604, 620, and 622 for a total of 15 credits.
- Severe Disabilities. Candidates will be required to complete EDUC 624, 625, and 626 for a total of 9 credits.

Barbara VanDornick stated that step-by-step instructions should be in writing on what needs to be done for educators to earn their Course of Study credit. Carol Vukelich agreed to contact the Professional Standards Board and the Department of Education to learn what is required of the University and the educator.

UCTE unanimously approved the list of Courses of Study.

III. Reports (Barbara VanDornick)

- *Enrollment and Admission Reports (Fall 2004)*
- *End of Term Report (Spring 2004)*
- *Institutional Recommendation (2003-2004)*

Due to the hour, discussion of these items will be delayed until November.

IV. Primary Endorsement (Carol Vukelich)

Due to the hour, discussion of this item will be delayed until November.

UCTE adjourned at 12:08 p.m.