

University Council on Teacher Education
Minutes for March 19, 2008
10:00-12:00
200 Academy Street

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

Members Excused: Steve Goodwin

Guests Present: Deb Alvarez, Pat Barber, Deb Bieler, Peggy Dillner, Ann Draper, Nancy Edwards, Alfinio Flores, Marika Ginsburg-Block, Myae Han, Bill Lewis, Cynthia Paris, Jim Raths, Lee Raymond, Bonnie Robb

Carol Vukelich welcomed everyone to UCTE. She indicated that President Harker would be arriving at 10:15 and would be departing at 11:00. Briefing papers were sent to the President explaining the following points:

- UCTE, the membership, and its mission.
- How professional education is spread among the colleges and the importance of teacher education all over campus.
- Enrollment figures (undergraduate, graduate, and minority)
- NCATE
- Challenges regarding minority recruitment and technology in the schools.

Carol invited participation.

President Harker's arrival and the Carol began the discussion explaining UCTE's representatives. She explained how the Conceptual Framework was created several years ago and how it continues to meet the UCTE's standard. Our programs are high quality meeting the State's and NCATE's approval. In addition, we also offer Institutional Recommendation to approximately 400 students annually. Though many of these students choose not to remain in Delaware, this could be conceived as a plus. More students would stay in Delaware if jobs were offered earlier.

UCTE has a task force on Minority Recruitment. Barbara VanDornick and Gail Rys have been working closely with Lou Hirsch and Terry Whitaker. There is concern about the lack of minority students in teacher education. We know from telephone interviews with candidates that money is an issue. We are keen for increased scholarship money. President Harker indicated that within the next 18 months there are going to be major changes on campus. This clearly is a fund raising issue. This is an area that is relatively easily to raise money. Why can't we make this one of the priorities in the upcoming campaign? We are hitting an interesting period. This is just the beginning of a down-draft. We are not going to be seeing money from the State. One of the issues that we are circling—undergraduate scholarships will be a priority across colleges.

What do we do if someone changes majors? We need to re-program the money that is already there. I believe we need more flexibility among the undergraduate programs. We are losing students because they don't want constraint. We're very proud, but are we getting the students we want. We're not the first choice. While the University of Delaware campus is beautiful, we need to appeal to students who are interested in intellectual experience.

Nancy Brickhouse stated that the School of Education requires dual certification. It's a very rigid program and our graduates are sought after.

President Harker stated many students are frustrated. It's not easy to change majors. Financial aid is only the front-end. We need to be creative. We need to think about the course of student careers – opportunity to change careers.

Minority Recruitment – Raising the number and involvement of underrepresentative students and staff. Diversity is clearly a theme. We have to have a very specific set of actions to enhance the involvement, engagement, and number. UD is not a welcoming place. We need to make this a more welcoming and inclusive environment.

How can we reach out to candidates? We pride ourselves in our programs being very field based. Field Placements and supervising the candidates – how do we create partnership schools. Those are faculty invested and time commitments. They cost lots of dollars. Things are in a holding pattern.

Carol asked: have you created a view of Teacher Education?

I like the model. It's challenging to manage and coordinate but what is the alternative. It's a good model. The hub of that activity is the research that is conducted on the best teaching methods. Scholarly work is the core. The State does look to the University for teacher education. We need to maintain our strength at the graduate and the professional level.

Nancy Brickhouse indicated that the School of Education graduate programs have doubled over the past ten years. A struggle—pressure to do too much at the graduate level to focus on large number of students who run the risk of cheapening the degree. Our job is to have a strong program, strong candidates and smaller more manageable programs. We want to focus on the right things. Quality wins in the end.

Barbara announced that Project Search is celebrating 30 successful years. All are invited to attend the luncheon on April 16 between 11:30-1:30.

UCTE adjourned at 11:10.