

University Council on Teacher Education
Minutes for June 7, 2000
1:00-3:00 p.m.
317 Willard Hall

Members Present: Jinfa Cai, Kate Conway-Turner, Bob Hampel, Ann McNeil, Cindy Okolo, Dan Rich, Kate Scantlebury, Carol Vukelich

Members Absent: Richard Bacon, Pam Beeman, Heyward Brock, Fran O'Malley, Sara Tilghman, Barbara VanDornick

Guests Present: Don Lehman, Pat Sine, Elaine Stotko, Burt Wilson

Approval of May 3, 2000 Minutes

Announcements

I. Project Search

This year Project Search had a \$3,025 profit. Student teaching coordinators who gathered feedback from student teachers regarding interviewee treatment by school district representatives were asked to forward the data to Barbara VanDornick.

Members again expressed their concern regarding the failure of Delaware districts to offer UD students teaching contracts during Project Search. In fact, most Delaware districts have not yet offered contracts to new teachers. Are our best and brightest taking positions out-of-state before Delaware districts offer them a position? To answer this question, Carol Vukelich and Barbara VanDornick are using the alumni survey responses to compare the SAT and grade point average indexes of those 1999-2000 graduates teaching in Delaware with those teaching out-of-state. They will report on their findings in the fall.

II. Praxis I Requirement

Barbara VanDornick asked for members to review the information regarding Praxis I which she intends to put on the web to ensure its appropriateness for all programs.

Old Business

I. STEP

Between the last meeting and this meeting, members were to consider their position on joining the AACTE/CBE joint project, STEP. As Elaine Stotko will be attending the STEP conference this month in Washington, members decided to withhold a final decision until Elaine provides an update in early July. While in Washington, she also will speak with Diana Rigden to determine what kind of a relationship is possible. Based on the data gathered, she will propose a “next step” for UCTE consideration.

II. Agreement Between the University and School Districts (Clinical Studies Task Force)

Members had received a copy of the draft of the agreement at the last meeting for their review. The only concern expressed was regarding the legality of some items. With UCTE agreement, Angela Case, Director of Clinical Studies, will request a University lawyer’s review of the document.

III. UCTE Nominations for 2000-01

There are five slots that need to be filled for next year: three faculty/professional, one graduate student and one undergraduate student. The following nominations were received:

Kate Conway-Turner nominated Alice Eyman from IFST
Dan Rich nominated Kathy Werrell from Engineering.
Carol Vukelich nominated Barbara VanDornick.

Additional nominations should be sent to Carol by the end June.
Voting will occur via e-mail.

New Business

I. Teacher Education Program Web Pages (Don Lehman and Burt Wilson)

Don and Burt distributed their report on teacher education web needs, the state of those sites that currently exist on the web, and

their recommendations for improvement. They began by suggesting several “first steps” to correcting some minor problems that were identified. For example, many programs have individual websites which are not linked to the DCTE’s website; they should be. A common logo on all teacher education web pages would be helpful to web readers. Dean Dan Rich questioned the estimated cost for the development, transition, and ongoing maintenance of the teacher education web pages. A cost estimate would allow him to work the teacher education deans and the Provost on a partnership for support. Dan asked Pat Sine to calculate the costs associated with OET’s acknowledgement by all teacher education units as the manager of the teacher education websites. Pat will prepare such an estimate and report to UCTE at the September meeting.

II. *Course Sets*

The State Salary Schedule for Delaware teachers, a piece of the State’s new accountability legislation, is attached. The table is broken down into two sections. The “Left Side” is the salary structure for graduate credit courses; the “Right Side” details the salary supplements for “cluster” credits and extra pay duties. The Left Side of the table is potentially more attractive to teachers. The Left Side is clearer than the Right Side regarding what teachers need to do to earn a salary supplement. (Basically, a teacher’s completion of 15 credits as a matriculated student in a degree program will result in a 4% salary adjustment on the State-paid portion of the teacher’s salary.) This could mean that requests for admission to our graduate programs could increase greatly. UD teacher education units need to begin planning now how to meet this potential increased demand.

Teachers also may earn salary supplements through participation in Delaware Professional Standards Board (DPSB) approved “course sets” or “clusters.” Clusters will be approved for 2% or 4% salary increases. Cluster courses could be for inservice or graduate credits. University faculty will need to put together clusters of courses. In the bill, teacher professional development is linked with increased student achievement. Therefore, it is likely that the DPSB will require evidence of the impact of teachers’ completion of the cluster on student achievement. As the DPSB has not yet

been appointed, specific guidelines for the creation of clusters are not yet known.

Discussion then turned to ways to make the University more “user-friendly” for teachers and administrators. At present, negotiating even the registration booklets can be challenging. Just what is available for educators this summer? UD’s decentralized nature means teachers must know to look in various places in UD’s publications for information.

Members decided to appoint a task force, consisting of representatives from various units across campus, to consider how UD might proceed with positioning the University to meet teachers’ and administrators’ professional development needs and making the University more user-friendly. This task force should report to UCTE on a regular basis. If UCTE develops a plan, Dean Dan Rich believes it likely could receive resources to help support these activities. It is important for the University to participate in this effort to improve student achievement. UCTE suggested Kathy Hollowell, Barbara VanDornick, and Kathy Werrell be asked to serve on this task force. Carol Vukelich, the Council of Presidents nominee for the Professional Standards Board, should also serve on this task force.

Then, a motion was made and unanimously approved that UCTE review and approve all course clusters before their submission to the Delaware Professional Standards Board.

Ann McNeil suggested that when DPSB cluster guidelines are available UCTE should sponsor a workshop on how to prepare these clusters.

III. *Minority Recruitment and Retention (Ron Whittington)*

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

IV. *Request to Delaware Professional Development Council to Recognize Serving as a Student Teacher/Cooperating Teacher as an Extra Duty/Extra Pay Assignment*

The new Accountability Bill also calls for teachers to receive additional pay for taking on additional responsibilities/duties/assignments. The dollar amount is to range from \$750.00 to \$1500.00. Carol Vukelich suggested that UCTE consider requesting that serving as a cooperating teacher for student teachers should be an extra duty/extra pay assignment. UCTE responded enthusiastically and supportively. Members directed Carol to proceed with this request.

V. *House Bill No. 583*

Deborah Capano introduced House Bill No. 583. The bill would allow districts to use student teachers as substitute teachers. Clearly, the proposal violates UCTE's policy on student teachers serving as substitute teachers. Barbara VanDornick and Angela Case are attending the bill's hearing this afternoon in Dover to speak against the bill. (Post Script: The bill was tabled. No one at the hearing spoke in its favor.)

VI. *Title II Federal Reporting Requirements*

Barbara VanDornick requested the appointment of a task force to assist her in the writing and review of the "contextual" information to be included with the institution's data report. Elaine Stotko, Cindy Okolo, Kate Conway-Turner, Kate Scantlebury (pending), and possibly Janet Bibik will be asked to serve on this task force. This task force will need to work over the summer months.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.