

**University Council on Teacher Education**  
**Minutes for March 13, 2016**  
**1:00-3:00**  
**200 Academy Street, Room 210**

**Members Present:** Ralph Ferretti, Stephanie Jennis, Jennifer Nauen, Laurie Palmer, Kate Scantlebury, Elizabeth Soslau, Sharon Walpole, Lynn Worden, Carol Vukelich

**Members Not Present:** Nicole Bishoff, Hannah Kim, John Pelesko

**Guests:** Christine Gorowara

The February 13, 2016 minutes were unanimously approved.

**Announcements**

1. Spring 2017 Enrollment Report (Christine Gorowara)
  - Christine reported an overall 1% difference from last year. We added new fields to the Ethnicity report: Delaware residents, 1<sup>st</sup> Generation, and Low Income candidates. There is a 64% rise in the “Non-Specified” category as more students are not identifying their race.
2. Educator Preparation Partnership Grant application (Carol Vukelich)
  - Carol shared that Capital school district will be participating with the pipeline proposal to increase unrepresented minority by 20 students each year. It is a summer program where they will not charge tuition and it will run over two summers. The student can earn 6 credits. If Capital does not fill the 20 spots, we will offer the available spots to other districts.
3. SPA Update (Christine Gorowara)
  - Christine reported on the programs that had SPA updates:
  - Secondary Science issues have been resolved, and the program is now fully Recognized.
  - Secondary Math and TESL will resubmit this week.
  - School Psychology, PhD needed to make adjustments due to low enrollment and will be resubmitting.
  - Not regarding SPAs specifically, but we submitted action plans to the Delaware Department of Education for 5 programs and Needs Justifications for 2 programs in response to the Educator Preparation Programs Reports (aka Scorecards) that came out last fall.
4. Taskstream Renewal (Christine Gorowara)
  - Christine reported that Taskstream contract is due for renewal. Taskstream is the system that replaced Seeds and FEPSs. When we researched the product it was depicted to do more than it actually does.

We have expressed our concerns and meet weekly with a representative to discuss any issues. We will renew for another year. There will be an inflationary increase of 2%, and due to issues reported, Taskstream will bump up our student cap from 1500 to 1750 with no additional charge. We have a conference call next week with the president of the company where we will discuss all our concerns.

5. Project Search – April 26<sup>th</sup> – Absence Policy (Elizabeth Soslau)
  - Elizabeth announced that Project Search is April 26<sup>th</sup> and an invitation will be sent out and to please RVSP for the lunch. It is great opportunity to collaborate with the districts. Also, the Elementary program updated their program absence policy so if their students attend Project Search, it doesn't count as an absence.

## **New Business**

1. 2015-2016 program annual report analysis (Christine Gorowara)
  - Christine reported that most annual reports are completed. The programs that were working on their SPA resubmissions are now finishing their annual reports. We changed the format of the SPA report. The main reason was to track the data, so if a coordinator leaves, the information is documented. The second reason is it provides an opportunity to look across programs to recommend revisions to courses and provide additional academic support. Praxis II sub-score data was the most common data used for pedagogy changes. Also several program coordinators indicated they would use feedback from completers – the DDOE has been collecting this information, so information will be available going forward.
2. New student teaching resource guide for all teacher preparation programs (Linda Zankowsky)
  - Elizabeth reported that the resource guide is currently with legal and when it is ready it will be presented at the UCTE meeting so you can then provide feedback and approve.
3. Motion to delete a minimum major GPA requirement for student teaching for CAEP purposes (programs could continue with this requirement if they wish) (Christine Gorowara)
  - Christine reviewed that UCTE created the Upper Division Clearance Policy in response to Regulation 290 and the anticipation of DOE's guidance requirements. We have since learned that we can apparently define entry into the program as entry into student teaching (although this must be verified in writing with the DDOE), and if that is the case, we can remove the Upper Division Clearance Policy. We discussed at a previous UCTE meeting the possibility of changing the Upper Division Clearance Policy to an Upper Division Checkpoint. In the meantime, part of the definition of the entry into the program, whether through Upper Division

Clearance or entry into student teaching, included a content GPA. The states does not require this through Regulation 290 and CAEP does not require that we monitor a content GPA. It also appeared that programs were not using the content GPA as a hard gate to Upper Division Clearance, as program coordinators often gave waivers to candidates falling below the required content GPA. For this reason, we propose eliminating the content GPA as a UCTE-required entry into the program although individual programs are free to continue to use content GPA as a requirement themselves if they wish.

- The discussion about this topic was confused as different people had different understandings, so we will table this until next meeting. Christine will look into details from previous meetings and contact DDOE for their guidelines to confirm that Praxis Core and overall GPA are sufficient gates to program entry. Also, we will check on the process with Alyssa and touch base with the program coordinators regarding their process.

**Meeting adjourned at 2:33 pm**