

University Council on Teacher Education
Minutes for April 28, 2020
12:30 – 2:30
Via Zoom

Members Present: Tia Barnes, Suzanne Burton, Gary Henry, Steff Kotch-Jester, Chrystalla Mouza, Krissy Najera, Kristen Nelson, Daniel Pineyro, Tracy Quan, Amy Trauth

Members Absent: Sarah Mallory

Guests: Christine Gorowara, Marie Peters, Tory McHugh

The March 24, 2020 minutes and April 13, 2020 minutes were unanimously approved.

New Business

1. Clearance Policy (Marie Peters)

Marie reviewed the Clearance Policy and proposed the following addition:

“The date in which clearances are due in the OCS may be extended in cases of extenuating circumstances by approval of Director of DCTE who will notify UCTE”.

Other changes are in red:

- All students enrolled in courses with Professional Education field placements are required to complete the fingerprint version of the federal and **Delaware** state background check.
- (It may take up to ~~six~~ **four** weeks for OCS to receive the CBC results.)
- All students enrolled in courses with Professional Education field placements must have a ~~current~~ **valid** tuberculosis test on file **with Student Health in the Office of Clinical Studies** before the first day of their field placement.

- **Policy changes were unanimously approved**

2. Institutional Recommendation Policy (Tory McHugh)

Tory reviewed the Institutional Recommendation Policy and proposed the following addition:

- *Due to COVID-19 closures, students graduating in terms 19S, 19J, 19F, 20W, 20S, 20J, 20F, 21W and 21S will be given 2 years to complete institutional recommendation requirements. Students graduating in terms outside the above list, with demonstrated impact of COVID-19 closures, may be given an equivalent extension at the discretion of the certification officer.*

- **Policy change was unanimously approved.**

3. Update on Praxis Testing (Tory McHugh)
 - ETS communicated that they are working on an at-home testing option to roll out in May. The tests will be rolled out by popularity.
 - Tory will communicate the information to students once we get a concrete plan for testing from ETS.

4. Krissy discussed the anticipation whether we can fund our field instructors who are under S-contracts in the Fall.
 - Asked Program Coordinators to report how many field instructors in their area get paid by S-Contracts, FLSA, or Wage. Also, how many students are assigned to each Field Instructor.
 - Discussed the Field Instructor Qualification policy.
 - Krissy will work with coordinators to gather the information and draft a policy amendment to present to UCTE next month.

5. Christine reviewed information regarding accreditation.
 - The Delaware Department of Education is reviewing, in conjunction with representatives from the affected educator preparation programs, whether it wants to stick with the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) or move to the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (AAQEP). They are holding a meeting where a representative from both organizations will separately present and we can ask questions.
 - Delaware's program approval process is written with assumption that Specialized Professional Associations (SPAs) are available. However, a number of SPAs have recently de-affiliated with CAEP. The DDOE group decided to first figure out accreditation agency then determine approval process.
 - Option of having no accreditation agency is not acceptable for DDOE.
 - Concerns raised on the standards and evidence of our student's preparation in various areas.
 - Christine will provide DDOE's recommendation to review with UCTE. It was suggested to have a town hall to discuss the comparisons/differences and the research/evidence of the teachers in the classroom.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm