

University Council on Teacher Education
Minutes for October 27, 2020
12:30 – 2:30
Via Zoom

Members Present: Tia Barnes, Suzanne Burton, Duane Cottrell, Jenna Dean, Gary Henry, Steff Kotch-Jester, Chrystalla Mouza, Krissy Najera, Kristin Nelson, Diana Roscoe, Carol Wong

Guests: Christine Gorowara, Marie Peters, Tory McHugh, Barry Joyce, Hannah Kim

The September 22, 2020 minutes were unanimously approved.

Announcements

1. November & December Meetings – Reschedule

- November meeting scheduled for 11/17 from 9:00-11:00
- December meeting scheduled for 12/15 from 9:00-11:00

ACTION: Debbie will send out new zoom meeting invitations including passcode for both meetings.

New Business

1. UCTE Policy – Institutional Recommendation (Tory McHugh)

- Tory reported on the guidance in early October from DOE regarding institutional recommendation and certification.
- A few items of note:
 - The provisions in the Governor’s State of Emergency Declaration relevant to educator preparation extend six months after state of emergency is lifted. We have not gotten in writing the actual length of the new guidelines.
 - The Capstone Clinical Residency requirements are the same – 10 weeks, but it now has the allowances for either in-person or virtual student teaching.
 - We currently do not have a written UCTE policy for what comprises student teaching at the University of Delaware. DCTE is working to construct the policy and bring before UCTE in the future.
 - As far as assessments, students can receive Institutional Recommendation without completing their Praxis II tests. This is good for students who are not planning on teaching in Delaware.
 - For certification, if a student does not complete the content subject readiness exam (Praxis II), they can receive an emergency certification in that area and that will transfer to standard certification once they complete and pass the exam.

- For Special Education students who do not take the exam will not be given emergency certification, but rather a Certificate of Eligibility. Those students will have to enroll in Alternative Routes program on paper only, and can exit the Alternate Routes program upon passing the Praxis in special education.
- In regard to performance assessment, students can receive Institutional Recommendation throughout the length of the order without the performance assessment.
- As for licensure in the state of Delaware, there is no change because they can receive their initial license without the performance assessment. The performance assessment will come into play when they go to transfer over to a continuing license.
- Scorecards will not be issued until next year.

2. Quick update on Fireside Chat (Debbie Ziomek)

- Debbie reviewed the details of the Fireside Chat which will replace the Teacher of the Year Event for 2021. We will combine the 2020 & 2021 Teacher of the Year Events in 2022.
- Date scheduled for Fireside Chat is Wednesday, January 27, 2021 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. Save the Date emails to go out next week. It was mentioned that since it is before Spring semester, faculty will not have the leverage to make attending mandatory or extra credit. We will discuss the date at our next planning meeting.
- Invitations to teachers to go out in November. Jamie & Marie have been in touch with programs for suggestions of teachers to invite.
- The event will focus on virtual learning and we will have panel and break out room discussions.

3. Accreditation update (Christine Gorowara)

- Christine discussed that the statewide group discussed the report and how to make decisions. There are two questions on the table
 1. Do we continue with CAEP or switch to AAQEP?
 2. What do we use for program reviews if we choose AAQEP as they do not require SPAs as program review and programs that are disaffiliated with CAEP?
- The team is working on creating a state program review process.
- In November, the team will make a recommendation regarding the accreditation question only. Once the report is written, each EPP can write a one-page commentary on their stance regarding the recommendation.
- Timing – team will discuss recommendations at the November meeting. The Delaware Accreditation Cohort will write the report by December and then Christine can present report prior to the February UCTE meeting. Then send to Secretary of Education in March.
- Christine reviewed the feedback survey results from faculty and staff.

- Programs expressed their issues with switching from CAEP to AAQEP at this time due to all the COVID changes that are occurring.
- Programs are tied to SPAs and are happy with the SPA reviews and that they are aligned with CAEP.
- CAEP review was very disappointing and meeting had no interaction
- AAQEP has a lot of equity work that could be advantageous
- AAQEP seemed to be better with data and using that data to improve programs.
- **ACTION: Debbie will send link to feedback survey and google docs to faculty reminding their input is due by November 1st.**

4. Curriculog (Krissy Najera)

- Krissy reported that we now have a UCTE button in Curriculog so that changes to teacher prep programs will be sent to UCTE for approval. The challenge now is if there is a change to a program that does not have the word education in it, it might get missed. Please make your colleagues aware of that if a change effects an education course it needs to come through UCTE.

5. Field Instructor Amendment for Secondary Education (Krissy Najera)

- Krissy reviewed the field instructor qualification policy and the proposed amendment that will allow faculty who are teaching methods to be field instructors if we find we are experiencing difficulty finding a field instructor.
- After the group discussed, it was decided that the policy does not need to change. We could review on a case by case basis.
- Secondary Education has their meeting in November where they will discuss and then bring any proposed changes to the November UCTE meeting.

6. Substitute Teaching Amendment for ETE student (Krissy Najera/Steff Kotch-Jester)

- One Elementary student in the residency program was asked to substitute for a teacher in her school for two weeks who was not her clinical educator. UCTE policy states that a student may substitute for her clinical educator at a pre-determined time.
- We had two concerns: 1. It was early in the semester and we did not feel that the student had enough time of student teaching and 2. they were asking for a two weeklong substitute.
- We discussed and agreed to two days, so the district had time to hire a long-term substitute
- We are asking for an emergency amendment from UCTE to have the two days go towards her student teaching requirements.
- The greater issue is that we do not have a policy for yearlong residency and having a policy to present to districts will prevent any ill will. The Districts felt that if they are paying a stipend that they should have a say in

the issue. We feel that we are responsible for what is best for our student teachers.

- Districts are asking for long term substitutes more and more and when we decline, they are quick to say they will consider other institutes that will.
- We might want to discuss the possibility that our student teaching 2 candidates at the end of their placement with the proper approval of the field instructor and clinical educator could fill in as a long-term substitute. It is becoming more of a need as schools are hurting for teachers.
- **ACTION: Krissy and Tory will work to develop a draft policy for yearlong residency program and student teaching policy to present to UCTE in the future.**
- **MOTION: Retroactive policy exception was unanimously approved.**

7. District Plans update (Marie Peters)

- Marie discussed that all districts are welcoming to our student teachers and most of the early fields and methods students. They are also allowing field instructors and site supervisor into their buildings. We are requiring our students to have a negative COVID test on file in student health 14 days before going into schools and they need to sign off on the rights and responsibilities form. After that, the student would fall under the districts protocol.
- The District/Charter plans document is up to date on the google drive.
- Dean Henry mentioned that this should probably go through University procedures and Marie will follow up with Tim Dowling.
- Krissy receives update reports on who has tested positive or been exposed to COVID and offered to update Dean Henry, Suzanne Burton, and Kristin Nelson with that information. The students must go directly through Student Health Services and Student Health will perform the contact tracing.

Meeting adjourned at 2:06 pm.