

**University Council on Teacher Education**  
**Minutes for February 23, 2021**  
**12:30 – 2:30**  
**Via Zoom**

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

**Not Present:** Jenna Dean, Gary Henry

**Guests:** Christine Gorowara, Marie Peters, Tory McHugh, Laura Eisenmann

The December 15, 2020 minutes were unanimously approved.

**Announcements**

1. Fireside Chat Overview (Debbie Ziomek)
  - Debbie reported on the Fireside Chat held on Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Fourteen teacher panelists from schools in the area both elementary and secondary participated. We had at least one teacher representative for every program. We had 95 students attend and a handful of faculty. We first held a Q & A session, moderated by Tory. Then we had a breakout session by program so students could get a more personal interaction. It was very informative, and our teacher candidates were able to gain invaluable information regarding virtual learning from some of our expert teachers in the area. The teachers that participated were so willing to share their knowledge with our candidates. They offered their emails to students to be available for future questions. All around it was a really nice event even though we could not do it in person.

**Old Business**

1. Student Teaching Policy (Krissy Najera)
  - Krissy reviewed the Student Teaching Policy that was developed back in November 2020. Action for UCTE members was to review policy with their programs and provide feedback if UCTE should do anything over and above Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) guidelines. Steff reported that Elementary field instructors felt there was not a need for an overarching policy for every program. Tia reported that Early Childhood suggested changing the policy to state from K-12 to Birth-12. Also, some concerns regarding consecutive days if teacher candidate or classroom teacher is sick. The requirement for 10 consecutive weeks is in the state regulation so probably cannot change. It was brought up that the program requirement for Early Childhood is over 10 weeks during two semesters, so this should not be an issue. Kristin did not review with Secondary Education program coordinators but stated that secondary like to have control over their programs rather than an overarching policy. Kristin will reach out with secondary program coordinators and get back to Krissy. It seems that DDOE guidelines are sufficient for most programs. There might come a time that

UCTE needs a separate student teaching policy. Christine stated that the language regarding 10 consecutive weeks is most likely unchangeable. Christine did point out that the bullet points are the areas of data that we report to the state, so programs should include them in their courses.

## **New Business**

### 1. Program Reviews

- MPCP (Laura Eisenmann)
  - Laura reported the results from meeting with Dean Henry. Proposal was to reduce credits by 6. There were some financial concerns raised at the last UCTE meeting. We met with Rachel Mroz to discuss the financial aspects. Basically, Rachel said that it is such a small amount that it is not worth worrying about any financial impact. The numbers are small and DDOE has already approved.
  - **Changes were approved.**
  
- 4+1 STEM (Kristin Nelson)
  - Kristin reported the proposal for new M.S. Secondary STEM education (non-certification track). The one-year stem program is to help improve our STEM numbers. The M.S. in Secondary STEM Education without certification program will provide additional training to those already teaching middle and high school STEM subjects. It is a one-year master's program in which students will take some of the same courses as those in the program seeking institutional recommendation for certification in grades 7-12 in Agri science, biology, chemistry, earth science, integrated science, physics, physical science, mathematics, or technology education. Instead of completing a year-long student teaching residency, however, they will take an educational research course, an independent project course and select two other graduate-level courses in their content area or in the School of Education for a total of at least 30 credits. Currently, the University of Delaware does not offer a master's in education program except in specialized areas. As a result, there is not a path available for teachers who are already credentialed to teach their STEM subject areas with bachelor's degrees to advance their education at this institution. This one-year program would allow students to be part of the residency program and therefore end up working in the state. This is available as a +1 or for candidates who are already working and just want a 1-year masters in STEM education. There is a large need for highly qualified STEM educators. Once the program is approved through the process, there will be collaborations with School of Education and Secondary Education.
  - **Changes were approved.**

### 2. Certification Update (Tory McHugh)

- Tory reported that there have not been any real changes. We are still operating under the waiver for Institutional Recommendation that this year they will be the

same as graduation date. Tory is answering questions for students who are looking to teach out of state for the required tests. Tory spoke with edTPA and if a student teacher is working in a hybrid environment, they may submit a combination of virtual and in-person lessons. They will not accept a mixture of virtual and in-person in an individual lesson. Program coordinators can reach out to Tory if you have any concerns or want her to meet with your class.

### 3. Accreditation Update (Christine Gorowara)

- Christine reviewed the state accreditation recommendation document that will be sent to Susan Bunting, recommending that the state stay with CAEP as the accreditor. At the November meeting, after a final consideration of all information, the cohort unanimously voted to remain with CAEP. Reasons for voting to remain differed among representatives, but common justifications included:
  - CAEP's affiliation with SPAs, which provide a pathway to SPA recognition of individual programs.
  - a longer track record for CAEP as compared to AAQEP.
  - CAEP's recognition by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation
  - CAEP's good working relationship with the state
- Christine asked if UCTE wanted to submit an addendum to the recommendation to bring out points of concern or respond to why we liked CAEP or AAQEP. The council decided there was no need for UCTE to submit an addendum, but Christine will wait until March 1<sup>st</sup> before submitting in case anyone wishes to provide feedback.

### 4. Review DACTE Meeting (Christine Gorowara)

- Christine reviewed the DACTE Meeting presentation highlights:
  - Continuing to assess the impact of COVID-19 on all things related to educator effectiveness. Too early to identify potential efficiencies for the future.
  - Senate Bill 42 – Pauses educator evaluation for 2020-2021 but maintains an observation and feedback cycle. Passed through the Senate and House and waiting for Governor to sign.
  - House Bill 89 - critical needs scholarship bill for Alternative Routes to Teacher Licensure and Certification programs. Introduced and assigned to House Educ Comm 1.27.21
  - Year-long Teacher Residency – very popular as there were 15 submissions requesting \$2,585,607 in funding for 2021-2022 fiscal year. Awards are expected to be announced in March. The plan is to eventually have this as a line item in the budget, so we do not have to request each year.
  - Recruitment – discussed how to get students to teach in Delaware schools. We reviewed data collected and strategies and ideas for recruitment.
  - Next DACTE meeting is March 24<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 – annual meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:11 p.m.