

Cooperative Council for Teacher Education – October 13, 2011 Minutes

Karen welcomed and introduced everyone. She reported on the field/student teaching placements for the Fall, 2011 semester. There are 56 seniors, 65 juniors, and 39 beginning Educ 201 students.

A discussion followed about the role of the teacher candidates in Parent Teacher conferences or IEP conferences. It was determined that the classroom teacher is always the lead person in the parent teacher conferences and the student teacher is more of an observer – however should be able to contribute constructive comments. With regards to a IEP conference, the student teacher is an observer with parent permission to be included. Another field issue cited by NCATE was diverse faculty and EL students. We must ensure that all teacher candidates have diverse faulty in college classes as well as in the field. It was suggested having a panel discussion led by minority teachers for the students. With EL students the department is now requesting on the field final report that the teacher indicate the number of students in the class who are EL or who have an IEP. This will help us to gauge whether or not we are meeting the criteria. It was also suggested that students could job shadow an EL teacher for a day, participate in an after-school tutoring program for EL students, or have a discussion with an EL parent group. Jim Kapsa offered to help us with these items.

Karen reminded everyone to encourage the teachers to take a field student and that she would be happy to verify Professional Growth Points for license renewal. We have great concern about our students have experience with diverse teachers. The Council reminded everyone of the tiny numbers of diverse teachers in the schools, but they would do anything in their power to assist us.

It was announced the state will be changing the REPA rules in some form this month and that all the elementary majors will be required to have a minor beginning with the class of 2014 (current sophomores). A minor booklet was distributed that has been created by the department to give the students choices.

Mary Ann Traxler updated the council on our new faculty member, Dr. Amy Gillan and our current search for a secondary education faculty member due to the retirement of Kitty Green.

Kitty discussed the Assessment System that has been put in place in the Education Department. The following reports were reviewed from our last meeting:

Step 1:

- Applicant data
- Field evaluations
- Dispositional changes

Step 2:

- Field evaluations
- Dispositional changes
- Oral presentations of Critical Reflection on the Standards

Step 3:

- Field evaluations
- Oral presentation on Standard 3
- Student teacher evaluations
- Exit survey results

All of the data where more than one person is evaluating are being checked for inter-rater reliability. We had our workshop last year with Institutional Research and have found we need to talk through our expectations more thoroughly before going in to listen or read.

The Council thought the mid-Step 3 presentations would prove very helpful to the soon-to-be student teachers. Standard 3 is very densely packed with some 15 elements. That would require a real understanding of all that was there.

The Council noted that we set our standards very high by saying that candidates need to perform at a Proficient level upon completion of the program, but that they were clearly doing that both from internal and external measures.

They also noted that as we keep adding to our database, we would be able to see trends over time. MaryAnn added that we have discussed raising the GPA for admission to the department. This was discussed at length, but no conclusion was made.

Kitty asked for any input or ideas the Council might have concerning assessment. Kitty also briefly discussed SPA (Specialized Professional Organizations) program recognition. This is another requirement of NCATE.

The council was asked to provide any feedback to Kitty or any other department member if they have any concerns or advice.