



Teacher Education Council

September 13, 2011

Saint Mary's College Education Department Teacher Education Council met on Tuesday, September 13 at 3:30 in Madeleva 254B. Present were:

Kelly Harrington, Art Department,

Dr. Kara Eberly, Biology,

Jennifer Mason, Chemistry,

Dr. Ros Clark, English,

Dr. Bill Svelmoe, History,

Dr. Natalie Domelle, Math,

Dr. Laurel Thomas, Music,

Dr. Patrick Pierce, Political Science.

Assistant Dean Nicholas Russo, The University of Notre Dame.

Missing were:

Dr. Julie Storm, Modern Languages,

Dr. Julie Tourtilotte, Art,

Sr. Kathleen Cannon, University of Notre Dame.

Education Department members were: Dr. MaryAnn Traxler, Chair, Dr. Amy Gillan, Dr. Kitty Green, Dr. Nancy Turner, and Mrs. Karen VanMeter, Director of Student Teaching/Field Study.

Packets of information were handed out as Council members arrived. Dr. MaryAnn Traxler, Chair of the Education Department, welcomed Council members and had everyone introduce themselves.

- Information was shared about department personnel and how the department is structured.
- Criteria for admission to the department was shared, with special attention given to changes in testing options that had been expanded.
 - Attention was drawn to the role that faculty from the departments represented might have in the admissions process that focused on dispositions (attitudes) prospective teacher candidates demonstrate.
 - Mrs. VanMeter presented the new Indiana REPA licensing rules, including structure and requirements.
 - One of the requirements is that all Elementary Education majors must have a minor. A brochure of minors was shared.

- She explained how Praxis II testing has changed for Elementary Education majors.
- New Indiana P-12 Teacher Standards were shared for the Elementary Education Generalist license.
- Discussion was held relative to our students' field placements and requirements for the clinical experience. Mrs. VanMeter shared the field evaluations and the changes that had been made to align them with the standards. We brain stormed how to be able to ensure that students had exposure to new language learners.
- Dr. Green explained the SPA (Specialized Professional Association) and their relationship to the Indiana Teacher Standards and NCATE. These are especially applicable to the Secondary Education program, but because of the required minor in the Elementary Education major, there could also be impact there. The question we need to know the answer to is: based on the standards, are our candidates getting the content knowledge they need to be effective teachers? Many questions followed regarding what this would entail.
 - Read over the material provided. Check at the back of the document to see how the State has aligned its standards with the SPA (should check out).
 - Share with individual departments and discuss how standards are met in courses offered.
 - Contact Kitty Green with information and questions.
 - Question: What local assessment can be used to demonstrate (80%) our candidates have the appropriate content knowledge? Will the Senior Comprehensive (SMC) or the grade in the Senior Seminar (UND) work? It will if the comprehensive is aligned with the appropriate SPA standards.

At the next meeting (October 11, 2011), we will talk about course patterns in light of these new requirements.

- Assessment Data: The Department has gathered considerable data on candidate performance over the spring semester. We have looked at Praxis II data for the Class of 2008 through 2011 and disaggregated it by discipline. A significant issue we face is that the number of students in each content area is very small. We reviewed this data and other results at our Assessment Retreat September 24. This will be shared at the October 11th meeting with the question to be: What are the implications of this data on our programs?
- Mrs. VanMeter discussed issues regarding field placements. It is getting increasingly hard to find quality placements given the stress of State testing and State status of local schools. Mrs. VanMeter requested any assistance from the representatives gathered.

The meeting adjourned with the thanks of the Education Department for the excellent attendance and participation. Several Council members expressed their appreciation for the information and the opportunity to participate.