

MINUTES
UNIVERSITY COUNCIL ON TEACHER EDUCATION (UCOTE)
April 16, 2007

Present: Tom Dana (College of Education), Shannon Washburn (Agricultural Education and Communication), Sharen Halsall (College of Education), Russell Robinson (College of Fine Arts), James McLeskey (College of Education), Mark Shermis (College of Education), Theresa Vernetson (College of Education), Jeri Benson (College of Education), Elayne Colon (College of Education), Jim Brandenburg (Alachua Elementary School), Jeff Charbonnet (Eastside High School), Bill Goodman (Alachua County Schools), Rosie Warner (College of Education)

Jeri distributed the UCOTE mission and the list of members. She asked the members to review the mission and get back to her if there needs to be any changes. Elayne passed out the minutes from the last meeting to update all on the progress made since then.

1. Updates from Previous Meetings

Satisfaction Surveys to Graduates/Employers

These go out in the spring to Graduates in their first year in the field and their Employers. This year, the procedure for sending these surveys was modified slightly in the hopes of increasing return rates. In the past, cover letters for both Employer and Graduate surveys was signed by the Assistant Dean in the Office of Student Services. This year:

- Employer surveys went out with a cover letter from the Dean of the College of Education.
- Graduate surveys went out with a cover letter from their respective the Program Coordinator.

This year, graduate surveys were mailed the week of April 9th and employer surveys were mailed the week of April 16th. It was suggested to send these out electronically and quite possibly earlier (late Feb-early March) next year. The later in the semester you get, there is a tendency to overlook these. After Spring Break, schools get very busy with end of the year activities. Russ said that Fine Arts will put a reminder in their newsletter for education graduates to complete their survey in the future

Educator Preparation Institutes (EPIs)

Applications for EPI's were submitted to the state for SITE in Alachua County and the Apprenticeship program in Duval County. Those students in the SITE program are completing their Master's degree. Those in Duval have to complete 15 credit hours while they are serving as the teacher of records. Teachers in schools get paid $\frac{3}{4}$ of their salary, with the other $\frac{1}{4}$ offsetting the cost of the program. These students agree to remain in the school system for 3 years in exchange for participation in the program.

Professional Training Options (PTOs)

This is part of the new Educator Preparation Rule change in the state of Florida for this year. PTO's are for non-education majors. A PTO is essentially an education minor, where the coursework fulfills the state's certification requirements. Upon completion of the PTO students get their transcript endorsed to allow for state certification. The College of Education is submitting a PTO to the College Curriculum Committee as a minor next month.

2. New Business

Gator Day in Tallahassee

Jim Brandenburg was at the Gator Day at the Capitol in Tallahassee at the beginning of April. He said there were many displays from other colleges at UF. He did notice that Education did not have a display and suggested that in order to have a presence, Education should have one next year.

Jeri brought up NCATE Day on the Hill which will take place this summer in Washington, D.C. She suggested that we should put together a package to represent who we are. She asked for suggestions of who we could get testimonials from (teachers, supervisors, principals, teacher education candidates) to attest to what UF is doing in the state. Jeri will email a reminder to this group for their anecdotes and experiences that will reflect well on COE. What we pull together for the Day on the Hill for DC could be used as part of our display for Gator Day in Tallahassee next year.

Florida Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (FACTE)

Tom passed out statistical data from the FACTE meeting that was held earlier this month in Melbourne. He explained that in previous years, there were as many as 50,000 new students entering public schools in Florida. In the 2006-07 academic year, there were only 3,000 new students entering our public schools in Florida. The price of housing and post-hurricane events may have contributed to this decrease in the number of entering students. In August of 2007, there were 16,878 teacher vacancies, and approximately 1500 to 2000 of these were not filled by the first day of school. Tom provided a handout with power point slides that were presented at FACTE:

- According to the data presented at FACTE, approximately 30% of first time certificate holders are from out of state. Of all graduates from "approved" programs, the SUS produces about 56% of all program completers in the state.
- In the Teacher Production slide, 49% of new teachers entered the public schools in Florida by taking the Subject Area Exam. These teachers received a degree in something other than education, worked a couple of years in the field, then took the Subject Area Exam to be certified to teach in their subject area. Approximately 21% of new teachers becoming certified graduated from an "approved" program in the state.

- Tom also handed out House Bill 451. On page 2 of this bill, there is verbiage that was redacted. Senator Proctor wants this language added back into this bill. Tom said that this bill is still in Committee and the last activity on it was in March. He suggested that all get on the legislature website and keep track of this bill.

Jeri asked the Alachua County members if there were differences in COE graduates and others who have taken alternate routes to certification (e.g., have passed the subject matter exam and have a degree other than Education). All agreed that COE graduates are outstanding in comparison to those taking alternate routes.

Florida Board of Education Rule Change

Elayne handed out a memo from Cheri Yecke that offers assistance in restructuring programs to meet the new state Rule. The new state Rule will require that students complete certain competencies related to their program, rather than a specific list of courses. The state is requiring that matrices with these competencies and syllabi for the courses in which the competencies are obtained to be completed by August, 2008. Elayne passed out a sample matrix for all to see. She explained that each program will need to go through the content of their matrix and figure out where the competencies are taught. She and Jeri will be meeting with program coordinators to give them their matrices and go over the process of meeting this state requirement.

In order to give programs time to complete their matrixes, Elayne would like to have programs submit revised matrices and syllabi by November, 2007. The balance of the time between November 2007 and August 2008 will be spent deciding how all these new competencies will be assessed.