

UCOTE Meeting
April 16, 2008
2 pm

Attending: College of Education: Catherine Emihovich, Jeri Benson, Tom Dana, Mark Shermis, Elayne Colón College of Fine Arts: Russell Robinson College of Liberal Arts and Sciences: Albert Matheny College of Agriculture and Life Sciences: Shannon Washburn Local Schools: Jim Brandenburg, Jeff Charbonnet

The meeting was opened with a warm welcome from Dean Emihovich. She asked that introductions be shared around the table.

The minutes from the previous meeting (November, 2007) were reviewed. Gator Day in Tallahassee was noted to have been cancelled this year. The event was originally to have taken place this April. The College of Education had intended to have a presence at this year's event.

Also, regarding minutes from the previous meeting, Catherine followed up on the issue of graduation versus program completion requirements. The issue is whether NCATE has an expectation that a degree be conferred only if program completion and certification requirements are met. In other words, can a student be cleared to graduate if they have not met all requirements for certification eligibility (e.g., taken and passed all portions of the FTCE)? Theresa will follow up on this issue with staff at NCATE and report out at the next UCOTE meeting in the fall.

UF Teach (Formerly Florida Teach)

Tom Dana spoke about UF Teach. UF Teach is a more attractive repackaging of Florida Teach, connecting the name more closely with the university's brand. One purpose of the project is to increase the numbers of students going into math and science teaching. Recruitment for students will begin this summer during Preview. The website for UF Teach is under development, as is a brochure.

This program runs very much like an honors college, with these students receiving preferential treatment. It will dovetail with HHMI Science for Life. Tom would like to work with the Honors Program since they have quality time with students in order to recruit students into the program.

Tom hired 2 Master Teachers for UF Teach. Gloria Weber (Math) and Griff Jones (Science) will be starting in June.

District Level Anticipated Needs

Jim Brandenburg spoke with the Alachua County Schools HR representatives just prior to the UCOTE meeting. There is a need for teachers to fill units due to class size reductions. For the current school year, Alachua County Public Schools hired 300 new

teachers. It is anticipated that the district will be looking to hire a similar number of new teachers in the upcoming school year, with approximately 100-125 hires going toward filling vacancies in the elementary schools. Special emphasis will be given toward hiring in the following areas: Special Education, high school content areas, including science, math, and English.

Jeff Charbonnet commented that he has seen the pool of qualified applicants get smaller. He believes most of UF's graduates leave Gainesville and return home to work. In the current academic year, he hired 6 UF graduates, 2 from ProTeach, 2 were other graduates in other programs and 2 were from alternative programs.

A discussion of anticipated vacancies in administrative positions ensued. Slightly more than half of the sitting principals in Alachua County could become eligible to retire soon. Due to the fact that they can make more money teaching, many teachers are not interested in becoming Principals. Jeff had 2 Assistant Principals leave for monetary reasons and return to the classroom.

Jim said that there does not seem to be the same amount of leadership training at the district level. He used to be able to send his teachers to take a lot of leadership training. He expressed a great need for staff development for educational leaders in the district.

Jeff is a facilitator for one of the Leadership Pools—classroom teachers who want to be administrators at the high school level. There are pools of assistant principals and certified teachers who are waiting for vacancies in principal positions.

FACTE Day on the Hill

Theresa spoke about FACTE Day on the Hill, which occurred at the end of March in Tallahassee. This day is modeled after AACTE's Day on the Hill in Washington, D.C. Shelley Warm accompanied Theresa from UF and there were 65 representatives from other institutions in Florida. Some of the representatives brought students, and this seemed to be a good strategy to get the attention of the congressional representative and their staff.

For the FACTE event, the group met on Wednesday and planned how to present themselves on Thursday. On Thursday, due to both the Senate and the House being called into session, they met mostly with their respective staff members.

It was a positive event and FACTE will offer this event again next year with better planning. If you have interest in attending, please be in touch with Theresa.

NCATE/DOE Site Visit

Jeri spoke about the upcoming NCATE/DOE site visit. NCATE and the DOE will expect to see examples of our candidates having an impact on children in the classroom. Jeri facilitated a discussion with the group on possible examples or ways to summarize this

data at the program or Unit level. Russ shared impact statements written by a few of the music education candidates at the culmination of their student teaching experience in the 2007 Fall semester and what they believed their impact was on their students. These examples offered the group a means to continue discussing what this might look like in the various programs within the Unit and how to frame the assignments or questions to get at this information in the best way. It was agreed that if we want specific information from students, they need to be asked the questions to solicit appropriate responses.

Theresa suggested that some programs might consider using the Pathwise reflection questions (7 questions for candidates to answer after their observation and prior to the post-observation conference) to get at some of the descriptive information. Theresa will send Russ the Pathwise documents for him to look at these instruments. It was also suggested that we look into the pre-internship inquiry project completed by the Elementary Education program to obtain impact data. The Center for School Improvement maintains a database with these inquiry projects as well as other inquiry projects conducted by current students and those in the field. Each spring, the Center works with P.K. Yonge and others in the College of Education to sponsor an Inquiry Showcase where many of these projects are presented and highlighted.