

UCOTE
Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2008
1:00pm-2:30pm

Present: College of Education: Buffy Bondy, Elayne Colón, Suzanne Colvin, Tom Dana, Catherine Emihovich, Michael Garrett, Sharen Halsall, James McLeskey, Whitney Shadowens, Theresa Vernetson
 College of Agricultural and Life Sciences: Brian Myers
 Local Schools: Jeff Charbonnet, Jim Brandenburg
 P.K. Yonge: Amy Hollinger
 College of Fine Arts: Ed Schaefer (representing Russell Robinson)

Absent: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences: Sheila Dickison
 College of Agricultural and Life Sciences: Elaine Turner
 Local Schools: Bill Goodman
 Provost: Daniel Wubah

Welcome

Tom Dana opened the meeting with a warm welcome. Also, he briefly described UCOTE and its purpose. UCOTE is the University Council on Teacher Education. It meets two times a year (once in the spring and once in the fall) to discuss the issues surrounding the teacher preparation programs and the schools affiliated with it.

He then asked that introductions be shared around the table.

Dean's Comments

As Dean Catherine Emihovich had to leave early, Dr. Dana asked her to provide the group with any pertinent information. She began by thanking everyone for their hard work in the midst of such challenging times. She was happy to announce that things are on track for the NCATE visit next year. Dean Emihovich also announced that NCATE has a new president which she is excited about. The new president, Jim ?, is a former dean and he really understands the history and process of accreditation. He wants every school and program involved in NCATE to fully understand its mission. She also stated that if the College of Education at the University of Florida would like to have more visits from the Board of Education, we need to have faculty volunteer to participate in the visits of other schools. K-12 personnel and principals can also be involved.

After opening the floor for questions, Dean Emihovich thanked everyone once again for their hard work. She said she knows that all will do their best to make the NCATE/DOE visit a successful one.

Minutes

The minutes from the April 2008 meeting were reviewed briefly. Each member was asked to review the minutes after the meeting and note any items that need to be changed. Changes can be sent to Dr. Elayne Colon (epcolon@coe.ufl.edu).

Also regarding the minutes from the spring meeting, Dr. Theresa Vernetson followed up on the question of NCATE's requirements for student graduation without completion of all requirements (such as the teacher certification examination). NCATE does not have rules about this as they are concerned with accreditation issues, not degree granting issues. However, if students in the approved programs are allowed to graduate without meeting all the requirements, certain credibility issues might be raised about the institution.

Dr. Brian Myers mentioned that the administration of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences does not believe that it is necessary to postpone a student's graduation based on taking the teacher certification examination for students in the Agricultural Education Program. Dr. Vernetson mentioned that a student who graduates without becoming teacher certified has 30 days to take the exam and pass. They must pass the exam within the 30 days or they will not be considered a graduate of the approved program.

Transfer Admissions

Dr. Vernetson gave an update from the College of Education regarding the admission of transfer students. UF cuts its transfer admissions from 3000 students to 200 students and looked at the average admissions rate for the last three-five years to determine how many each college and department can admit. The College of Education has been allowed 46 as opposed to the average of 86 last year. Dr. Vernetson has been active in asking for more transfer student spots and Dr. Glover gave COE two more spots for spring.

The other programs did not suffer from as much of a decline in students. Fine Arts admits many transfer students to their Art History and Studio Art programs, but the Art Education programs did not see as much of a decline. The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences were also negatively affected, but again not as much as COE.

SAT Changes

Dr. Vernetson announced the SAT requirement changes for the College of Education since UF now includes the SAT writing score in the admission requirements. The College of Education requires students to receive a 1010 combined verbal and quantitative SAT score which increases to 1450 once the writing portion is added. Even with the writing, students must still not receive lower than a 1010 on the combined verbal and quantitative score. These new SAT requirements will be effective for the freshmen entering in Fall 2009.

PTO (Professional Training Option) / EPI (Educator Preparation Institute) Update

Dr. Dana said that the College of Education has decided to embrace alternative routes to certification.

Dr. Ed Schaefer announced that Art Education just received the approval for their Master of Arts with an EPI allowing the degree to be with or without certification. There is also talk about putting this degree program online, but this will take some time. When the PTO began, it started from a different angle since the program works with the New World School of Arts in Miami-Dade (which has a classic conservatory model). The students at the New World School have such an intense workload that they cannot complete their associate degrees during the fall to spring academic year and must complete them in the summer. Because the PTO courses are online, the students are able to complete them during the year. There seems to be interest for online courses, especially among theater and dance students. Many of the students at the New World School want to become a performer, but decide teaching might be the more logical and responsible choice as they start to grow up. The students usually become good teachers with the right teacher training because they have such strong subject backgrounds.

Dr. Vernetson asked that the application process for the PTO or EPI in Art Education be described. The following was given:

PTO: It is an approved minor program, but can be done at the undergraduate or graduate level. It allows students to take coursework for professional education that the state requires. There are five different parts to the process – assessment, classroom management, etc. The University must submit a plan for offering a PTO.

The College of Education offers three PTO minors: one in math, one in science, and a general education model. Math and science are tied to UFTeach, which is a grant funded program. The math and science students are required to take a one hour course each semester for three semesters plus another eighteen hours of education courses.

For EPI programs, there are requirements for the syllabus and there must be a connection between the coursework and the Florida Educator Accomplished Practices (FEAPs). EPIs are for people who already hold a BA in a subject area other than education and decide they want to be a teacher. EPIs require candidates to spend at least thirty hours in the school system with students.

Agricultural Education State-Approved Master's

Dr. Brian Myers announced that the Agricultural Education Programs is trying to make its Master's level degree a state certified teacher preparation program. Both the College of Education and the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences would be able to utilize this program. He also thanked Dr. Vernetson for her help with the process. They are

halfway through with the paperwork and CALS is looking forward to having a fully approved Master's program as this is their area of growth. This will help to create good teachers.

NCATE/DOE Visit

Dr. Elayne Colón announced that the dates for the visit are October 3-7, 2009. The visit is a joint one between NCATE and DOE.

Dr. Colón also said that she, Dr. Vernetson, Dr. Dana and other chairs/directors have been preparing for this visit since the last visit in 2003. One of the new steps taken to be prepared is meeting with the Program Coordinators twice a month. The meeting present and address new standards so that all are familiar with them.

Dr. Dana thanked all of those involved in working on the standards and getting the information ready. As this is a data intensive process, new data collection systems have been created and augmented to prepare the data in specific ways.

NCATE has six standards for which data and documentation must be shown. The standards are:

1. Candidate Knowledge, Skills, and Professional Dispositions
2. Assessment System and Unit Evaluation
3. Field Experiences and Clinical Practices
4. Diversity
5. Faculty Qualifications, Performance, and Development
6. Unit Governance and Resources

NCATE will take a unit wide perspective of these standards. The college will illustrate with examples from the different program areas. All the items for show will be displayed in an electronic exhibit room.

DOE has new continuing approval guidelines. At the moment, we are not entirely sure what they all are or what they all mean.

1. Core Curriculum: this is what the state requires us to teach and the students to know.
2. Candidate Performance
3. Continuous Improvement: How do we self study and engage in improving ourselves?

The plan is to be ready for the visit by the end of the spring semester so that we can have a mock review before the actual one in October. As of now, we are on the right track as the program coordinators are diligent workers.

The visit will require the involvement of many people. All faculty involved in teacher preparations programs should be available. NCATE might want to have a meeting with UCOTE members to discuss how UCOTE functions at UF. There will also be visits to the schools to have discussions with principals about collaboration with the university and how the programs are doing. This is the notice to be available during the above dates. Dr. Colón, Dr. Dana, and Dr. Vernetson will give more updates about the visit as they become available.

Field Experiences

Dr. Colón explained that the expectation for NCATE's Standard 3 is that the college collaborates with school partners. She then asked different members to describe how they implement, design, and evaluate the experiences within the internship programs as there are good models already in place in the college.

Jim Brandenburg said that his school (?) has good, functioning program. The program was developed about seven or eight years ago. The model used soon developed into a school professional program. Pairs of pre-interns (students at the junior and senior levels) are assigned to one mentor for twenty hours a week. Their coursework is at the school and is taught by field advisors and/or their faculty. Additionally, the pre-interns are required to do an inquiry experience/research project. This research eventually becomes included in the schools improvement plans. Also, the schools do not serve as the hostess. They wanted to get away from that model and have more of a mutual relationship where teachers and students learn from each other. This model has worked really well and over the last two years, the skill levels of the interns and pre-interns have greatly increased.

Amy Hollinger explained P.K. Yonge's program as similar. The mission of the school is to help the pre-service teachers. Teachers began using pre-interns as a co-teach model which allows the pre-interns to teach. She also asked what other schools have instances of field experiences dealing with middle and high schools teachers. At P.K. Yonge, the intern program is mostly in the elementary. Because co-teaching is good for students and teachers alike, it is important to offer it at the secondary level.

Dr. Myers said that the Agricultural Education program works with the 400 agricultural education students throughout the state. Occasionally, all the supervising teachers gather at UF for a day long meeting to try to understand and implement a co-teach structure. There is also a lot of work with the administrators of schools because a school might only have one agricultural education intern. It is important that the administrators know how to assist the interns and teachers alike so that all positively benefit from the experience.

There needs to be a mutual improvement relationship between students and the teachers. Field experiences are an essential part of the student's teacher learning

process. There need to be structures in place that explain the best way to be facilitating this mutual relationship. The relationship between schools and the university needs to be formalized. UCOTE can take on this responsibility or can recommend whose responsibility it should be. This will be discussed further at the next meeting after each member has had a chance to think about it and discuss it with department chairs, faculty, and deans.

Governmental Updates (FACTE/AACTE/Gator Day)

Obama's education plan spends more money on early childhood education, teacher pay, and teacher quality. Urban teacher academies seem to be of interest to Obama. These academies are focused in an urban area and offer an alternative education route. There will be funding available to create urban internships. This was originally meant to be to help hard-to-staff classrooms. Although it is difficult to know how this will play out, COE and other teacher educator programs need to be aware that there is a potential for funding.

Dr. Vernetson talked about the FACTE meeting at Warner Southern University in Lake Wales. She said that it was a nice meeting and there was a big focus on the Day on the Hill. This year it is scheduled in Tallahassee from March 9-11, 2009. March 10th is the Day on the Hill. It involves getting the opportunity to speak to legislators about the issues that are important to us. Someone from FACTE trains people to know what needs to be done, what to say, and what to leave with that day. Dr. Vernetson encouraged everyone to be involved. Students can be involved as well.

Finally, Dr. Colón announced that Gator Day will not occur this year due to lack of funding.

Dr. Dana reminded the members to contact him, Dr. Colón, or Dr. Vernetson with any questions, comments, or concerns that come up before the next meeting. He then thanked everyone for attending and dismissed the meeting.

Submitted by Whitney Shadowens on November 19, 2008.