

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL
MINUTES
October 7, 2014
UC Cardinal Room

Members Present: Allen, Boatright, Bricker, Carpenter, Catley, Caudle, Centeno Pulido, Corbin, Cox, Diehl, Flood, Kinner, Kloepfel, Lasher, Mincey, Nickles, Ogletree, Petrone, Scales, Schade, Schallock, Schwab, Strahan, Unruh, Wells, Winter

Guest: Nancy Luke

David Strahan began the meeting by extending an invitation to join a group of area teachers and administrators, grades 6-12, at a multi-district, collaborative professional development day on October 29 at Smoky Mountain High School. WCU faculty are invited to serve as facilitators for PLC discussion organized by subject areas. David asked that folks pass the word about the event and have those interested email him at strahan@email.wcu.edu.

I. Dean Dale Carpenter

Dale will be joining the meeting later to discuss the new licensure requirements.

II. Approval of Minutes

The September 8, 2014 meeting minutes were approved.

III. Update from P-12 Partners

Lora Cox shared that our student volunteers at Cullowhee Valley are wonderful and the relationship with WCU is exciting for kids in programs like farm to school, the fall festival, etc.

Kim announced that the After School Program will be starting after fall break.

IV. Chair's Report - none

V. Information

A. Admissions – none

B. Curriculum

Kim announced that Curriculog training sessions/workshops will be held Thursday and Friday this week. Committee chairs will be recording notes and recording group approval so the course and program changes can move to the next level.

Lee introduced the last AA6 for MAED Supervision curriculum change submitted by paper deleting Curriculum-Instruction and Instructional Technology Specialist-Computer concentrations. The Jamaica concentration will remain. Motion and second to approve. Motion passed.

C. Appeals - none

D. Policies and Procedures - none

E. Field Experiences - none

F. Assessment – moved to next meeting

G. Technology – none

H. edTPA – moved to next meeting

VI. Old Business - none

VII. New Business

A. Licensure Exams – Kim Winter

Kim discussed the newest Licensure Testing Policy Update (<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/licensure/policyupdate.pdf>) outlining changes effective July 1, 2014 and October 1 2014 that is posted on DPI's Licensure webpage <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/licensure/>. Originally, all candidates applying for their initial NC teaching license would need to pass the licensure before being recommended for a license. Next, changes in timing of when exams needed to be passed was introduced in August and now there is additional information about the transition to the new Pearson testing requirement for program completers in December 2014. Because Pearson scores were not available until September, Kim requested approval from DPI to use prior Praxis test scores for Elementary Education and Special Education: General Curriculum to be considered past October 1. She is still waiting for their response.

IHEs can have more rigorous license requirements so we are having conversations with other IHE's, independents, area superintendents, and UNC system Deans to determine what is best for our students. Some IHE's are requiring their candidates pass the Pearson General Curriculum tests prior to admission to teacher education; some are requiring all areas to pass licensure exams prior to recommendation for an initial license; and still others are requiring candidates to pass all licensure exams before student teaching.

Kim introduced Dale for his comments and he suggested three possible options:

- 1) Recommend candidates for license after degree is conferred. In this option, WCU would still be responsible for test pass rates and accreditation cut scores increasing;
- 2) Require candidates to take exams and recommend with passed or attempted scores; or
- 3) Require candidates to pass the exams in their area before recommendation for a license.

Dale asked for everyone's thoughts and discussion followed on:

- decisions affecting the license exam for content knowledge being used for the EE2;
- WCU working to become testing center;
- the new Pearson tests based on content knowledge and not pedagogy so the reading exam should be taken soon after the candidate completes their reading course;
- early discussions to not recommend anyone before they pass exams to show quality of NC educational systems;
- the problems counties may have hiring high need areas if tests not passed;
- 80% pass rate in each program needed for NCATE/CAEP;
- the possibility of mentors being trained to help students with testing. Dale said we used to do that and we may want to revisit the practice;
- consideration of a one hour capstone course for reviewing areas on the Pearson exams;
- the recommendation that faculty take the exams; and
- a PrepForward session presented at the recent NCACTE conference and their development of study courses for NC Pearson exams. Expected costs are \$25.00 for a diagnostic and \$450 per course.

Dale said we do not need to make a quick decision. He's not going to put this semester's candidates in jeopardy of not being recommended for license and will consider our P-12 partners when making a policy decision.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Schade
PEC Secretary