PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL
MINUTES
February 20, 2006
Killian 104

Member Present: Bricker, Butcher, Carpenter, Carter, Freeman, Grube, Hembree, Knott, Lofquist, McRae, Norris, Radcliffe, Rogers, Schade, Schallock, Smith, Tapley, Williford

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

I. Dean Michael Dougherty

Dale Carpenter welcomed everyone and announced that Michael was out of town at Association of Teacher Educators meeting where Western is one of two finalists for the prestigious Distinguished Program in Teacher Education Award.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 26 meeting were approved with the following change to background checks. Students can now go to WCU Campus Police for fingerprinting and background checks. We appreciate them doing this.

III. Admissions

Barbara Schade presented 23 undergraduate and 2 Licensure Only applications for the Council’s consideration and approval. The Council voted to accept the undergraduates without conditions into the program and all others, with one exception with a voted not to admit, were accepted conditionally until they have completed all admission requirements. The Licensure Only applications were approved.

IV. Policy and Procedures

A. Professional Behavior- Dale Carpenter

Dale shared with the council situations this academic year including plagiarism, driving-while-intoxicated, and participation in online social networks involving B-12 students. Some of these behaviors have resulted in negative consequences for candidates at the university and in their B-12 public school assignments. Dale asked the council to discuss our expectations for candidates and how we communicate expectations to teacher education candidates.

Dale shared the following documents that convey expectations of professional behavior.

- WCU College of Education and Allied Professions conceptual framework (http://www.ceap.wcu.edu/conceptualframework.htm),
- Published codes of ethics (http://www.ncpublicschools.org/teacher_education/conductcode.htm) (http://www.nea.org/aboutnea/code.html),
- Statement in the WCU catalog (http://www.wcu.edu/UnivCatalog/Catalog/colleges/eap/tep.htm), and

The council members affirmed that instructors and advisors should actively discuss professional behavior with candidates throughout the program. It was noted that professional behavior is addressed in many courses including EDCI 231 (or BK 250), methods courses, and the seminar course. It was noted that professional behavior is addressed by the Director of Field Experiences before candidates are assigned public school experiences.
Council members discussed the possibility that not all candidates may be aware of possible consequences of behavior commonly accepted on university campuses but not acceptable in some communities for public school professionals. Two examples were dress and participation in online social networks such as Facebook (http://www.facebook.com/) and Myspace (http://www.myspace.com/). Council members stated that teacher education candidates should not and cannot be prevented from participating in online social networks, but they should be reminded that this behavior is public and subject to community scrutiny just as other public behavior is.

Jackie Smith received information from State Teaching Fellows that suggests it is inappropriate for our TE Fellows to be active on Myspace.com and Facebook.com.

It was discussed that Teacher Education students need to be held to higher standards. Sending a message to students to be careful when using the sites and the ramifications of participating on the sites were discussed. Suggested methods included information to seminar classes, methods classes, getting recommendation from department heads at Leadership Council for discussions in EDCI231 classes, and material in the TE Handbook.

V. Information

A. Autobiographies and Interviews

Dale showed the council how to access and view autobiographies via TaskStream and requested that they be read by the end of Spring Break.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Schade
Barbara L. Schade, PEC Secretary