

**PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES**  
**March 29, 2007**  
**Killian 104**

Members Present: Beaudet, Bowen, Carpenter, Carter, Corbin, Hilty, Hunt, Kantz, Knotts, Newsom, Nickles, Perlmutter, Schade, Schallock, Stewart, Strahan, Unruh

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

I. Dale welcomed the group and announced that Dean Dougherty was out of town today.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 28, 2007 meeting were approved.

III. Admissions

Barbara presented 116 undergraduate and 2 License Only applications for the Council's consideration and approval. The Council voted to accept the undergraduate and license only applicants without conditions into the program. Other undergraduates who have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0, have met the interview requirement or need a follow-up interview were accepted conditionally until they have completed all admission requirements. The remaining undergraduates who did not have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 and/or did not complete an interview were denied admission to the program and will have to reapply. One license only candidate was admitted conditionally until a cumulative GPA of 3.0 is achieved on the first 12 semester hours at WCU.

IV. Curriculum Items

Dale explained the proposed change in the Birth-Kindergarten program from license and non-license concentrations to two separate programs: Early Childhood and Birth-Kindergarten. They would also be reducing program degree requirements from 128 hours to 120 hours. The list of new courses was discussed by the Curriculum Committee prior to the full Council meeting. Motion and second to approve. Motion passed.

V. Information

A. Teacher Education Advising

Dale announced that teacher education advising meetings were held March 13 and 16, 2007. A PowerPoint presentation of material was also sent via email attachment to the college.

B. TaskStream Update

In acknowledgement and response to the difficulties that P-12 educators have been having with TaskStream, the following actions have been taken: 1) eliminate PEVA completion for Early Field Experiences fall 2007; 2) eliminate Diversity Assessment completion for Early Field Experiences fall 2007; 3) revise Host Teacher Evaluation to include values not already assessed on PEVA fall 2007; and 4) immediately start collecting diversity on schools from DPI website [classroom specific diversity from TWS].

Dale reminded members that an email was previously sent out announcing a TaskStream Review meeting on April 20, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. in Killian 104 and invited council members to attend. Additionally, Jacques Jacobs attempted to convene a meeting with graduate students regarding TaskStream, but because of low attendance will have to revisit the issue at another time.

VI. New Business

Michael Schallock raised the question of whether there is a mechanism for graduate students in teaching areas for the reporting of felonies comparable to the procedures for undergraduates. Gibbs Knotts explained that the graduate application form has six self-reporting conviction questions and that if felonies are involved, Student Affairs looks further. Undergraduates, in addition to completing an applicant statement, are also required to have a background check through CertifiedBackground.com. David Strahan expressed concern that we were relying only on self-reporting for graduate students and suggested that, in order to protect the safety of students in public school classrooms in which we place prospective teachers and the university's reputation, we should be taking more restrictive measures for all of our license candidates. He would like to see a requirement that graduate students also have a background check done before they are allowed in schools. Students would then give public schools permission to access the background check information to use accordingly. Others expressed concern on behalf of graduate students that we would be adding yet another bureaucratic and intrusive requirement to an already lengthy process to becoming a teacher. No action was proposed or taken.

Gibbs Knotts announced that there is an "Invest in Teachers Scholarship Program" where teachers can have their first graduate course [resident or distance] paid for. Go to [www.westerngrad.com](http://www.westerngrad.com) and click on Invest in Teachers Scholarship for eligibility requirements and to apply.

Dale shared two additional aid/scholarship opportunities: 1) a program for first year teachers moving in from out-of-state where they can get in-state tuition before establishing residency [principal signs off on their application]; and 2) NCTIP where approximately five out-of-state undergraduate students each year can receive a scholarship for in-state tuition with the stipulation that they must teach in North Carolina for each year they are awarded the scholarship.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Barbara Schade*  
Barbara L. Schade, PEC Secretary