

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL
MINUTES
April 23, 2009
Killian 104

Members Present: Beaudet, Butcher, Carter, Catley, Coone, Corbin, Dougherty, Gastle, Gilman, Grist, Grube, Hunt, Jorissen, Kantz, Lawrence, McRae, Nickles, Norris, Oren, Schade, Schallock, Steiner, Stewart, Unruh

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Dan Grube welcomed everyone and introduced Dean Dougherty.

I. Dean Dougherty

The Dean extended his thanks for everyone's work with re-visioning and policies and commended Dan for taking over the role of Associate Dean and PEC chair.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 10 and special April 6, 2009 meetings were approved.

III. Chair's Report

Dan amended the agenda as it applied to English 101 and 102 Teacher Education requirements to be included in New Business.

A. Report on M5-336 and EBAD beta test

The new survey and inventory are new teacher education admission requirements beginning fall 2009 and replace the face to face interviews. They will be administered in EDCI 231 classes. Lee expressed his thanks to Renee Corbin for creating the surveys in TaskStream. The diversity inventory shows where we are and will compare pre and post results in the future. Impressions: Students like doing it in class but had some problems with terminology. Instructors liked doing it in class and thought it was a good student first exposure to TaskStream. Diversity survey results can be generated from TaskStream; M5 report from database.

B. Jamaican Program Accreditation

Dan shared that there will be a site visit this summer on July 19-22. WCU has a steering committee of faculty involved in the program and will have a draft report for the committee. The final report is due in November 2009.

C. Curriculum Materials Center Proposal Update

At its February 13, 2009 meeting, the Leadership Council reviewed the draft proposal which Beth McDonough presented to PEC earlier that week. The proposal to expand exposure to the curriculum center and encourage its use, suggested that a class activity could be housed in EDCI 231 as a homework assignment and also be utilized by methods courses. The Leadership Council approved for this requirement to be added as a tracking item to early field experiences time sheet/assignments reporting for EDCI 231. Students will sign up directly with Beth in groups. Other programs may identify appropriate courses to incorporate exposure to the Curriculum Materials Center as they choose.

IV. Information

A. Admissions

Barbara Schade informed the Council that there were 51 undergraduate teacher education admissions from January through April 15, 2009 and 148 certification and advanced degree admissions for the same time period. She shared that the current admissions and notification policy is working very well for students.

B. Curriculum – New Courses or Program Changes

Lee Nickles announced that there will no longer be a master's Birth-Kindergarten program and that the undergraduate residential program has been put on inactive status. The BK distance on-line undergraduate program is restructuring to differentiate licensure and non-licensure tracks. They have eight new courses and have changed four others in addition to the overall program change.

C. Field Experiences – Policy on # of supervisor visits

In light of the recent economic situation, and because most of our sister institutions require significantly fewer visits and feel that quality is not compromised, Ken Hunt proposed the following for the fall to save significantly on both travel and adjunct supervisor pay: reduce the number of site visits for Intern I from 5 to 3 (unless problems are evident) and reduce the number of site visits for Intern II/Student Teaching from 7 to 5 (unless problems are evident). In Ken's experience, approximately 5% may need additional visits. Health, Physical Education, and Recreation (HPER) will do a minimum of four visits until utilizing technology for virtual observation is possible with the addition of the health curriculum. Internship I placements for HPER will be made within 35 miles of WCU.

Ken suggested in place of visits, supervisors use virtual observation and WebCat; flip cams (digital) to internal flash drive; Mac books (Lee has 50, Library has 5 and Ken has 36); have cooperating teachers assist with video taping; and use Skype voice internet calls and video conferencing. Note that there may be problems with firewalls.

Ken asked for input at the end of the fall semester on whether this process is going well so he can re-access the feasibility of continuing the site visit reduction in the future.

D. Assessment

Renee thanked Barbara Schade for taking care of the transfer student updates in order to clear up information issues and assuring that all departments have access to updated materials. The information also goes to Fred Hinson.

Renee discussed NCATE standards and unit operations. You can get a list of surveyed committees from Renee. Each is on a three year spring cycle to make sure they're effective in the college. The C&I subcommittee of Diversity Committee feel less prepared in classroom management and diversity issues (specific needs, cultural, etc.) Areas have been added to the Student Teaching/Internship II survey under Evaluation of Your Teacher Preparedness from WCU. They include "Needs of Diverse Students-Learning Ability" and "Needs of Diverse Students – National Origin".

E. Technology – TaskStream and QEP Briefcase

Lee explained that the QEP is a university wide assessment NOT a program level tool. Their tool is intended for student-advisor communication, student creation of portfolios for employment/resume purposes, student collaboration, and task communication by advisors. Only a sample will be assessed by university-wide rubrics. TaskStream and the QEP Briefcase have different purposes and different functionality. We should not plan to move away from TaskStream for the foreseeable future.

V. New and Previous Business

A. Standing PEC member for Educational Outreach

Regis Gilman proposed an amendment to the Bylaws of the Professional Education Council, Article III: Members. Section 1. Composition. "...for the addition of a representative of the Division of Educational Outreach (which is similar to membership by a representative of the Graduate School)" Motion and second to approve designated membership and service on the Council. Motion passed.

B. Revised English 101 and 102 teacher education admission criteria

Dan and Catherine Carter proposed that English 102 be suspended as a teacher education admission criteria but be included, with a minimum grade of C (2.0), as a requirement for applying for Internship I beginning 2009-10. Motion and second to approve. Motion passed.

Dan thanked everyone for serving this year. He will be contacting Council in August to see if members want to continue another year. He asked that anyone not wanting to serve contact him via email.

The Council adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Schade
PEC Secretary