Members Present: Beaudet, Binkley, Bryson, Buskey, Butcher, Corbin, Decatur, Faughn, Fenton, Grist, Jaqua, Kantz, Lasher, Lord, McDonough, Nickles, Norris, Ray, Rose, Ruebel, Schallock, Unruh, Walawender, Wells

In Jamie Newton’s absence, Rebecca Roemmich was in attendance representing undergraduate students

I. **Dean Dale Carpenter**

Kim announced that Dean Carpenter would try to stop in towards the end of the meeting.

II. **Approval of Minutes**

September 18, 2012 meeting minutes were approved.

III. **Updates from P-12 Partners**

Kim explained she has added an item on the agenda to give P-12 educators an opportunity to share information about what’s going on in their schools.

April Bryson from Smoky Mountain High School shared that they were excited to implement a club program again. Students meet twice a month to explore their interests (i.e. travel, community service, etc.) and it is the first time in 25 years that this type of opportunity will be offered to students.

Teri Walawender from Blue Ridge Early College talked about the inclusion of a new 6th standard for teachers and 8th standard for administrators that will evaluate the extent to which they contribute to the academic success of students based on a model measuring student growth for educator effectiveness. Data compiled over three years is used to determine proficient teacher effectiveness (meets expected growth for administrators) and any deficiencies would require an action plan. Although this can facilitate conversations and increase communications in a positive way, it may negatively impact future student teaching/intern II placements. Teachers responsible for student performance growth that has been made over the course of a grade or subject may be reluctant to continue to host, or start to host, student teachers if doing so could negatively impact their performance rating.

IV. **Chairs Report - none**

V. **Information**

A. Admissions – none

B. Curriculum – none

C. Appeals – none

D. Policy and Procedures – none

E. Field Experiences - Mary Beth Decatur

In response to the needs of our school partners and their desire for us to police our own teacher education students, we provide background checks on the students we place in their schools. The policy on background checks for our students going into field experiences was changed last year. Beginning this semester EDCI 201 students applying for field experiences submitted a NC-only background check ($7) and those applying for spring 2013 Internship/Student Teaching will submit a more extensive Nationwide and Sex Offender List background check ($30). Students are required to self-report any further incidents within 72 hours to the Director of Field Experiences.
Based on several situations this semester, we are now recommending that the more extensive background check be done before the earliest field experience placement. The idea was presented and discussed at the September 26 meeting of the Field and Clinical Experiences Committee with no objections voiced and several of our P-12 school partners agreeing the change would be wise. The recommendation was shared with CEAP via email. No objections were voiced; 6 responded in agreement with the proposal.

Mary Beth said she spoke with a representative of our vendor, CERTIFIEDBackground.com, about a price break if we do the more extensive check first and they agreed to a fee of $30 for first check and $19 for recheck. Kim Ruebel shared that we have a policy for provisional enrollment in EDCI 201 and a student can find an alternative placement to replace the early field experience placement component of the course so they don’t fail the course. However, if an alternative placement can’t be found, the student would need to drop the course or risk a failing grade.

Students completing a licensure-only plan are currently required to have a background check before any placements in the schools. The Council suggests that it be made a requirement when they apply.

Background checks are also required of Social Work students so that a student knows early in their program, and change majors if necessary, when background information would keep them from getting licensed.

Mary Beth explained changing to a more extensive background check is not something the Council needs to vote on but she wanted to present and discuss it with the group to see that there is support.

F. Assessment - Renee Corbin

Renee spoke about the pre and post Diversity Inventory Survey results. She explained what made the data statistically significant and shared that there was a positive correlation that is statistically significant overall between pre and post Diversity Inventory responses and also between pre and post Diversity Inventory responses by gender. The data is also collected by program and Renee can be contacted directly for specific program information.

G. Technology – none

VI. Old Business

A. Quorum

To review previous discussion, Kim began by reading from the current bylaws “the presence of at least one-half of the Council voting members shall be necessary for a quorum” and reminded everyone that the suggestion was to decrease the number for quorum to one-third. After quite a bit of discussion last month, there were still concerns about the low number which resulted in the group voting to table the motion. We need to discuss the number of members required for quorum as well as the possibility of proxy voting. This was mentioned as a possible alternative to reducing the numbers required for quorum. It had further been suggested that the PEC secretary would need to be notified in writing in advance of the meeting regarding the proxy.

Frederick Buskey said a small group had met after the last meeting and put together possible wording that he read to the group. After a brief discussion, those present agreed on a suggested change to bylaws Article V: Meetings, Section 1. as follows: “The presence of at least one-third of the Council voting members shall be necessary for a quorum for the purposes of conducting routine business. Items requiring a vote must be voted on by ½ of the Council members. Voting may be done by proxy and proxy votes count towards ½ of the Council. Proxy votes are only valid if the PEC Secretary has been informed in writing at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting. The absent member will include in the communication the name of the proxy who must be a voting Council member.”

Motion and second to accept the proposed revision of the bylaws. Motion passed.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Schade
PEC Secretary