Middle Grades Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday May 6th 2021

Members present: names and role/position

Faculty members: Holly Pinter (program coordinator for ELMG undergraduate programs), David Virtue (Botner Distinguished Professor), Nancy Luke (ELMG faculty), Bob Perkins (ELMG faculty)

Guests: Kayleigh McAlister (8th grade ELA Cane Creek Middle, adjunct WCU), Beth Poteat (The Catamount School grades 6-8, adjunct WCU), Nancy Ruppert (professor, UNCA middle grades), Tyler Whittenberg (chief counsel justice system reform for the Southern Coalition for Social Justice)

1. Welcome and Introductions- Holly Pinter
   a. Welcome from Holly Pinter
   b. Introductions
   c. Advisory Board Purpose

2. Current Program Status (Holly) Data Summary
   a. CPAST pilot
   b. EdTPA continued pass rate
   c. Continued work on backmapping EdTPA preparation tasks
   d. PDP

Summary of conversation and group suggestions

-Candidates still seem to struggle with academic language later in the program despite an emphasis on this in EDMG 410

-Noticing that there isn’t enough emphasis (from candidates) on the desire for feedback. Need to try to find ways for feedback to be valued by all stakeholders

-Find was across the program to focus on the practice of re-writing

-Use UDL and SIOP methods to modify existing lessons and work to get strong with connecting research

-potential to workshop the same lesson across courses to support developmental progression of lesson planning skills

-Possibly we could use an interdisciplinary topic that we carry across methods courses and seminars (something even like current events)

   - Is there a growth measure we could use to score lesson plans?
   - Possibly we should have goal setting as part of the grade
   - Potential to have students do peer feedback and conferencing before it gets turned in. Perhaps use the table talk feedback protocol (shared by Nancy Ruppert here)

3. New Business Items
a. Diversity and Inclusion (David)
   i. Guest Tyler Whittenberg (https://southerncoalition.org/staff/tyler-whittenberg/) shared some from his work at the Southern Coalition for Social Justice advocating for our program to focus on these elements in pre-service education:
      1. Focus on adolescent development
      2. Discipline as pedagogy
         a. Your response to negativity should be positive
         b. Focus on agency (difference between accountability and obedience)
      3. Nancy Ruppert shared terms to utilize in our study
         a. Intersectionality
         b. Culturally Relevant

b. Methods Courses
   i. Capturing content knowledge
   ii. Planning (lesson, unit, yearly)
   iii. Assessment

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 PM