

**Elementary Teacher Education Senate**  
**3:30 Thursday, March 7, 2013**  
**CBB 319**  
**Minutes**

I. Roll and introductions

**Present:** JD Cryer (Coordinator, Elementary Teacher Education), Katheryn East (Chair, Teacher Education Faculty), Sarah Vander Zanden (Literacy Ed), Linda Fitzgerald (Early Childhood Ed), Kim Miller (Special Education), Tony Gabriele (Professional Sequence), Denise Tallakson (Elementary Education), Trey Leech, (Physical Ed. and Health Ed.), Amy Lockhart (Clinical Experiences), Jean Schneider (Middle Level Education), Michelle Swanson (Music Ed.), Wendy Miller (Art Education)

**Absent:** Cherin Lee (Coordinator, Secondary Teacher Education, Ellen Neuhaus (Liberal Arts Core)

**Guests:** Rob Boody (Director of Assessment), Becky Hawbaker (Student Field Experiences), Barb Bakker (Physical Ed. and Health Ed.)

II. Approval of minutes for Feb. 7, 2013

Linda Fitzgerald moved to approve the minutes and Sarah Vander Zanden seconded. Minutes approved.

III. Update on matters arising at the State (Cryer/Lee)

JD attended the AACTE (American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education) in Orlando, Florida last week. This offered a look at Teacher Education across the Nation. Points of discussion were: edTPA, the National Core Curriculum and year-long residency programs, among other national issues related to Teacher Education. Per JD there are a lot of interesting things coming and further discussion will take place at future meetings.

IV. Update on Teacher Education Executive Council (Cryer/Lee)

The search is still in process to establish a budget line for the overall Teacher Education program across campus.  
The replacement for Cherin's position as Secondary Teacher Ed. Coordinator will be an interim position. Discussion will need to continue regarding the replacement process.

Also discussed was the location for the Teacher Ed. Office. This has not been released yet.

#### V. Standing Committee Assignments

- a. Need an elementary level representative for the Teacher Education Curriculum Committee

JD hasn't heard from anyone so he will start knocking on doors.

#### VI. Old Business

- a. edTPA Voting Results

Nine out of ten people voted in Elementary Senate to adopt edTPA. From this result, the decision made by the Elementary Teacher Education Senate was to adopt the edTPA as our formal performance-based assessment. However, a statement was made during the electronic voting that we want to maintain control of this process and only send out 10% to Pearson for scoring.

The Secondary Senate will review the edTPA content guide and handbooks and make their vote at their April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Per JD, as part of the edTPA pilot study at UNI there are about 65 students that will need their edTPA assessments scored. All Teacher Education faculty are invited to the training session for this process.

- b. GPA changes

At the Joint Teacher Education Senate meeting in January, Dr. Rob Boody, Chair of the Teacher Education Subcommittee on Assessment, presented information about the possible impact changing the current entrance requirement of a 2.5 GPA to a 2.75 or 3.0 would have on students and our overall program.

Rob mentioned raising the exit requirements, raising Praxis I scores, LAC GPA, program GPA or Prof. Seq. GPA. The Assessment Committee decided that the push for raising the GPA is externally driven. Nobody in our program is really pushing this. This came from the Reform Act. The purpose was to make UNI look rigorous rather than self-approving our students. Rob feels there is no internal reason to do this - only to assuage external constituencies. Rob doesn't feel that we have to go ahead with this.

Sarah Vander Zanden felt that changing the GPA gives an artificial marker of vigor from her area. The Assessment Committee also felt the same way.

Tony Gabriele mentioned that in the Iowa Senate they are considering an increase in teachers' starting salaries so it is quite possible that if it passes we could have more students wanting to become teachers. We may have more applicants so how do we handle this? Do we hire more adjuncts? What are the hiring requirements? If we identify capacity and then not worry about a GPA number we have a capacity that we can handle.

Kim Miller asked about Iowa State University and the GPA that they are currently using. Per Rob they are at 2.5 and they are not changing. Raising to 2.75 in a major was discussed. Kim said raising to 2.75 would not work well for Special Education numbers.

Becky Hawbaker believes we are being forced into the conversation about raising the GPA. She said we don't want to prevent people from getting into the program so how do we not penalize students and sub groups, gender, etc.? Data pulled from UNITED was posted from Rob.

Katheryn East asked if there was a correlation between GPA and how good a teacher is. Rob indicated that 2.5 and above doesn't appear to make a difference.

Tony Gabriele is concerned with grade inflation. He doesn't think increasing GPA is a good idea. He feels that screening out less qualified students is a good point even if external pressure is no longer there because at some point we will hear about it.

Katheryn East feels that we should monitor students through a type of notification of concern process. Tony Gabriele asked "What about raising Praxis I scores?" Rob said Praxis I is changing and new cut scores will soon be advised by the state.

Kim Miller said another area to consider is the major GPA. This should be reviewed and possibility used for decisions about entrance and exit requirements.

Becky mentioned that Cathy Miller, Senator representing the Mathematics Department on the Secondary Senate, gave a speech in Secondary Senate about great teachers with a lower GPA, thus she was in favor of leaving the GPA at 2.5.

JD mentioned that Kyle Gray, Senator representing Science Education on the Secondary Senate, had checked several schools

to see what their GPAs are and 2.5 to 3.0 was the range that he found.

JD explained that after this information was presented, the motion to keep a 2.5 GPA as the entrance requirement to the Teacher Education program was passed by Secondary Senate.

Linda Fitzgerald moved to leave the GPA at a 2.5 for admission into the Teacher Education program and Tony Gabriele seconded. Motion passed.

c. Field Experience requiring students to miss class

JD said, as a review, that during first semester there were conflicts with students informing instructors that they had to miss class because of field experience. This brought up the question of what do we do when one class wants to take part in an activity but in order to do this students need to miss another class. This is becoming problematic.

Wendy Miller tries to get students to ask in advance for time. Linda Fitzgerald said that students have to make up everything they miss for Field Experience in her class. "Where to you draw the line?" Denise T. asked". "How do you decide what is ok to miss and what is not?"

According to Becky, students need to go to field experience for state required hours, but these field experiences should have been structured into courses. She feels that Level I and II don't seem to be the issue. Elementary Level III field exp. seems to be working fine.

Michelle Swanson asked if we have a form for students to complete when they are to miss class through the College of Ed. Per Linda Fitzgerald there is.

Becky Hawbaker recommended that we keep our ears open to see who is being affected. Tony Gabriele posed the question towards how to engineer things better (speaking with Colleges, if methods courses were all at the same time).

Per JD everyone needs to communicate well, plan ahead, and use the absence form as this may take care of some of the smaller issues. We can then assess later if the issue becomes a bigger problem.

VII. New Business

a. Health Teaching Minors

Barb Bakker presented the changes and additions to the School of Health Minor curriculum.

Linda Fitzgerald moved that all changes be approved. Denise Tallakson seconded. Motion passed.

b. Alumni Survey

Rob sent a handout around highlighting a past Alumni survey from 2007. This survey is done every three years. The Dean suggested that this be updated. The first 10 questions are related to INTASC standards. The last five questions are open-ended and were added by TE Assessment Committee. This will be electronically distributed and the Dean is asking this to be sent to those students who graduated last year. Rob needs feedback on what everyone thinks of the survey questions. Are they appropriate, or do they need to be revisited?

Linda Fitzgerald in Early Childhood has used results from past surveys to change curriculum.

Becky mentioned rating descriptors and that this is in terms of being a first year teacher. "What is meant by poorly prepared?" she asked.

Feedback is needed by the middle of April. Kim Miller asked if this survey will reflect if the teacher is full time, part time, unemployed or if they even have a job in teaching. Rob will send a draft in June to everyone in TE.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45.

VIII. Upcoming dates (subject to change)

**Elementary Senate**

April 4

May 2 (if needed)

**Secondary Senate**

March 28

April 18

**April 2—Teacher Education Convocation**