

**Professional Education Council**

**Minutes**

**February 22, 2024**

**Via Zoom; 3:30-5:00 PM**

Attendees: Stacy Bailey, Jennifer Urbach, Ken Clavir, Lindsay Fulcher, Charlie Warren, Jared Stallones, Jennifer Parrish, Michelle Holmes, Ginny Huang, Nicole Petersen, Suzette Youngs, Linda Spreitzer, Jean Kirshner, Matt Seymour, Jennifer Cherico, Abi Paytoe Gbayee

Absent: Teresa Higgins, Jennifer Krause, Margaret Berg

1. **Approve minutes:**
   * Approve minutes from the January meeting. Jenny U. motioned to approve; Jennifer P seconded. 6 approved, 0 opposed, 2 abstained. Approved.
2. **Curriculum:**
   * There is no curriculum for review.
3. **Old Business:**
   * Reauthorization update – Ginny
     1. Self-Study draft has been shared with campus. Program area leaders received an email reminder this week to please review and suggest any revisions from the already submitted information. They have been asked to focus on accuracy. March 8th at 12pm, the document will be locked to all to make edits and updates. Another updated version will be shared once this is done.
     2. Material preparation – a reminder was sent out today to program leaders to continue to work on their syllabi. An updated version of the syllabus guide has been uploaded to the PEC website and is linked in communication. The plan is to open the folders in Sharepoint for document upload. Will request document upload by March 8th. These documents will then need to be uploaded to the state site.
     3. Service course syllabi will be collected by STE. Service course descriptions were emailed to program areas this morning.
     4. Ginny will be unable to follow the timeline to have the self-study report to the provost by June 1st. It will need to be delayed to June 15th. EPPART needs time after the end of the semester to finalize and have everything ready to send to the provost office. Ginny will provide an updated timeline.
     5. PEC should recognize the hard work and dedication by the members of EPPART. They have been instrumental in getting the new assessments together, working on the self-study report and much more. Ginny can’t express her gratitude enough. They care about the quality of the teacher preparation programs.
   * Disability Resource Center Accommodations – questions for DRC
     1. Follow-up: Stacy informed us that representatives would attend our March PEC meeting. Cristin Turner from DRC responded quickly to Jared’s memo to them. She did ask for some preparation material for when she attends. She has asked for some specific examples of some concern areas, so they can be prepared. Please provide your specific examples onto the document linked in the agenda. It will be closed the week prior to our March meeting and sent to DRC.
     2. Jared thanked everyone for the input in the memo. We were able to provide some specifics on our concerns. We should get some good information.
   * Certified/non-certified service animals:
     1. We are checking with other larger nearby districts on what their policies are regarding this topic.
     2. Abi is also seeking information from UNC on who is in charge of certification.
   * Teacher Candidate use of pronouns on nametags:
     1. Has anyone expressed concerns about the use of preferred pronouns in field placements?
     2. St. Vrain and Poudre responded and stated their districts do not currently have a specific policy regarding the use of pronouns.
     3. There is a student currently using Mx and non-binary pronouns.
     4. Is there a College of Education policy? Perhaps PEC could put something together that could be used campus wide.
        1. Ginny: At the state level, for Social Studies standards it is quite progressive, but there is strong resistance. We need to talk about it. Determine the policy at UNC and then also for field placements what are the district policies. We are in no position to impose what we approve of at UNC on schools who are hosting our students.
        2. District HR meeting with a few reps, mentioned how much they appreciate the placement process at UNC. He mentioned that another university sent their policy to the districts and insisted that the schools follow the university policies. They are no longer working with that institution.
     5. Are districts pushing back on students going into schools with their preferred pronouns?
        1. Students manage how they request students and mentors to address them.
        2. Maybe we should ask students to provide feedback.
     6. School reps:
        1. Nicole mentioned they are hosting a student teacher who is using the Mx and pronouns they/them. She is not aware of any issues with this. She believes the student teacher feels supported. The district encourages that students provide their pronouns if they are comfortable but no surveys to students.
        2. Linda mentions that whatever pronouns they use at UNC are fine in their school. They just want candidates to be respected. They also have a new policy for service animals.
4. **Feedback/Input from Partner School Representatives:**
   * 1. Nicole Petersen: Brentwood is happy to take as many students as they can from UNC. This is a big recruiting tool for them. They have many current teachers who were UNC students. They are winning awards now. Having students early to find the confidence to jump in and get started. Maybe cohorts of students, what are great activities to do. How do we engage them with students. They’ve been doing surveys with their students to try to get more interest in teaching. They think long-term when hosting our candidates.
        1. Nicole agreed to chat with CDE when they come for a site visit.
     2. Linda Spreitzer: Knowledge Quest. Love hosting UNC candidates. They are their “farm team.” This encouraged them to start using a co-teaching model. Also determine how do you work together and develop yourselves as learners. Full-time dad interventionist, instructional coaches. They hire UNC students and then promote them to the next steps up. Dedicated to learning and using time with their peers. Students need to get into schools as soon as possible. The earlier we “hook” them, the more we can prepare them for the wonderful, challenging position. Big concern, will we have teachers in the future? Thanks to this group for looking at those challenges.
        1. Do you have students who participated in this year’s Future Teacher Conference?
           1. Linda – no
           2. Nicole – no but thinking of someone who would work well there.
           3. Ginny suggests encouraging students to come next year. Many workshops are available to help inspire.
        2. Linda asked: Are there plans for UNC to help with the extreme math teachers? How do we recruit and retain them?
        3. EBS is working with the math department to see what we can do to increase enrollment.
           1. Great idea to maybe visit folks in other areas (accounting, etc.) to see if they would be interested in being a teacher.
        4. Ginny mentioned increased notice of students struggling in the field since Covid. This is increasing the workload for mentor teachers.
           1. We appreciate the support that schools are giving to us.
           2. We appreciate the additional time and support that mentors are giving to our candidates.
           3. We hope the support and understanding from the schools will continue as we support students for their success.
5. **Reports:**
   * Reports from membership
     1. Charlie Warren – Reminder, graduate catalog, we have an obligation to make sure they have passed all of their background checks. Graduate application for PTEP will cover this. Programs, please consider making this a requirement. It is paper only. Allows us to ensure schools we are doing the background checks. If you or students have questions, Charlie can share the link. A new analysis will be available next month.
     2. Ginny Huang – nothing to add.
     3. Jared Stallones – AACTE conference last week. We officially launched the Rocky Mountain Association for Teacher Preparation. Affiliated with AACTE. Includes Colorado and Wyoming. Started planning a conference for next fall – Colorado Mountain College campus will most likely host. We should invite all stakeholders. If you want to help plan and/or present, let Jared know. The call for proposals will be out soon. Everyone is encouraged to attend.
     4. Ken Clavir/Jennifer Atterbury-Cherico – New Curriculum will be in the PEC queue for review soon – schedule for Fall 2024 went up February 20th. Graduate registration starts April 1st. Undergraduates start April 2nd.
6. **Adjournment**