MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
COUNCIL ON TEACHER EDUCATION
January 16, 2013
3:10 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Conference Room A, 505 E. Green, Ste. 203

MEMBERS PRESENT: Amy Allen (Student Rep), Brenda Clevenger Evans (CoTE), Cynthia Helms (P-12 Rep), Christine Jenkins (GSLIS), Kristi Kuntz (Provost), Suzanne Lee (CoTE), Brenda Lindsey (SW), Chris Span (COE), Marian Stone (FAA)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ave Alvarado (GC), Richard Clark (AgEd), Mary Kalantzis (COE), Theresa Laumann (Student Rep), Chris Roegge (COE)

OTHERS PRESENT: Kathy Gray (CoTE), Kathy Ryan (COE)

1. Announcements and Approval of Minutes
a. Welcome and Announcements: Clevenger Evans called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. welcoming everyone. She announced that Adva Steiner Waranyuwat left the university so is no longer a member of our Executive Committee. LAS is seeking an academic hourly person to fill Adva’s position for now.

b. Approval of November 28, 2012 minutes: Clevenger Evans asked for approval of the minutes of November 2012. Lindsey moved to approve the minutes as presented, Jenkins seconded, and they were accepted as presented.

c. Additions to the agenda: There were none.

2. Ongoing Business
a. IPTS implementation/program revision: Lee stated that ISBE is finalizing revisions to the requirements for the implementation of the new Illinois professional teaching standards and has not yet communicated the details. Speaking unofficially, Lee anticipated the following four points to be required in some fashion. Matrices developed to the indicator level addressing each indicator; assessments, how the indicator level is assessed; a course description list; syllabi to the indicator level showing detailed coverage again at the indicator level. She expects the review process to include examining language used in the standards and requiring identical language be found in appropriate corresponding syllabi.

Lee said CoTE is currently inventorying syllabi on file and will share the results. She will also find examples of how she envisions new syllabi should be written and share those. Lee asked programs to proceed in the direction given working towards June 2013 as a date due to her. Lee explained that while the law states IPTS must be complete by fall semester 2013, this timeframe parallels the annual reports due date making it essential for IPTS to be done by the end of summer. Discussion followed and included the importance of communicating these details to programs and faculty. Lee was asked to send an email to those present making the request that syllabi be rewritten to address the new IPTS and including an outline of expectations. This will enable them to go forward within their departments/programs. Lee said she would share a new timeline with them as soon as more is known.

b. edTPA update: Lee recapped the state law which takes effect September 1, 2015. She explained that all teacher candidates must achieve a certain score on this teacher performance assessment and outlined the testing instrument. She said it is largely essay based requiring video clips to illustrate points. An extensive rubric is provided to guide content and insure specific questions are addressed. The way teacher candidates frame materials they present will also be evaluated. Academic vocabulary is a significant assessment point. Lee suggested that this has implications for faculty and what they address.
Lee said she sees benefits to the assessment, process, and opportunity that it provides every candidate. Lee informed all that she is providing a series of workshops for which programs can take advantage. She offers a variety of talk lengths. Lee thanked Library Sciences for conducting the required pilot program. She explained that in 2014-15 all teacher candidates and faculty will participate in a practice edTPA. This will be a training time for scoring as well, as most tests will be scored locally with some being sent to Pearson. Programs are encouraged to take advantage of this learning opportunity to review and improve what is done. Discussion followed. Part of that discussion included a concern over fees. Student Rep Allen said she would compile her actual costs and report them at the next meeting.

c. Assessments: Lee stated a significant lack of consistency exists across programs, and as a unit we need to do something to increase consistency. Lee reminded attendees that this has been a topic of discussion since the beginning of this academic year. She introduced the Danielson Framework at previous meetings and received positive feedback from several people. She reviewed what she sees as the main benefits. It provides a lot of feedback, offers higher quality data for programs to review, and distinguishes performance into levels. The edTPA and Danielson Framework are complimentary, not repetitive, making assessment feel more like one process. Training is available. Lee identified the downside to be more paperwork. Lee said this tool is currently being used in 32 states and asked attendees to adopt the Danielson Framework as our assessment tool. Clevenger Evans said she planned to take a vote today, but since a quorum is not present, she will send an email asking for an online vote regarding our adoption of the Danielson Framework.

d. Budget implications: When discussing budget implications, Lee suggested that edTPA might replace the majority of portfolio requirements. Clevenger Evans said she anticipates that a mini portfolio will still accompany the edTPA.

3. New Business

a. Conceptual Framework: Lee articulated our current conceptual framework and explained that every two years we are required to revisit and reevaluate its statement. This is the process set in place to police ourselves and insure quality. Two years ago we employed the use of an online survey to receive input. Lee and Clevenger Evans said they plan to do the same again this year. The online survey that they will soon send out will consist of six or seven questions and should take 15-20 minutes to complete.

4. Updates/Reports:

a. ISBE annual report update: Clevenger Evans announced that all the annual reports passed. She thanked Suzanne Lee for her hard work and dedication to the task acknowledging that Lee put in some very late night hours. Clevenger Evans also thanked Eric Ohlsson, Kathy Gray and the programs for their extra efforts in completing the report.

b. ISBE updates: Clevenger Evans introduced and summarized eight main ISBE updates that are identified here as follows.

- Clevenger Evans said the basic skills/TAP/ACT w-writing are now good for 10 years. This is important to note as it also means these scores can’t be older than 10 years when a candidate claims certificate/license.
- She directed attendees to review the handout “Section 25.25 Requirements for the Professional Educator License” and said she emailed this same information to them earlier. She explained the changes being proposed that are indicated on the handout and said Section 25.25 is open for public comment.
Clevenger Evans talked about Section 25.37 – subsequent endorsements. ISBE’s intent is that graduates seeking endorsements will obtain those through higher ed instead of going through the Regional Office of Education. This would increase workloads. Also, it is anticipated that students will shop around to get the endorsement and ISBE will eventually try to tie a teacher’s success to where the endorsement was processed.

Next mentioned was Section 25.620 – change in cooperating teacher requirements. The proposed change would require five years of teaching experience in schools with a proficient or above performance rating in his/her most recent evaluation.

Clevenger Evans highlighted Section 25.100 – technology specialist. This proposed rule change increases the required hours from 24 to 32. This big change would affect our placements.

She said Section 25.491 has an interesting point to note. The State Superintendent can revoke, suspend or require professional development against a license based on incompetency. Incompetency includes, without limitation, two or more school terms where the licensee received an unsatisfactory rating on performance evaluation within a period of seven school terms of service.

Clevenger Evans said the proposed change to Section 25.620 does not affect us. This proposal states that student teaching must be done during the final year of the program as opposed to after sophomore year.

She said students must be careful as to which test they sign up to take. Section 25.710 identifies the details. The APT for early childhood, elementary, secondary and special education is good through June 30, 2014; the APT for pre-K through grade 12 is available May 2013 and will be tied to the new IPTS; the edTPA will be required beginning September 1, 2015; the principal preparation program test begins May 1, 2013; the general administrative test is good through June 30, 2014.

Additional discussion: This discussion centered around concern for ISBE directives, where education is heading and how state legislator driven it is becoming. As a Research I institution, we have the ability to come along side and partner with the state to help identify what makes an excellent teacher and how to assess results. It was suggested that we meet with our university liaison from the Office of Government Relations to discuss our concerns. Span said he plans to email President Easter concerning this as well.

5. Information Items: None was distributed.

6. Adjournment: Clevenger Evans asked for additional comments or questions. Seeing none, she adjourned the meeting at 5:00 pm.

Remaining meeting dates for AY 12-13: All meetings are 3-5 PM in Suite 203 (B), 505 E. Green unless otherwise indicated.