MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
COUNCIL ON TEACHER EDUCATION

March 13, 2002
3:05 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
Room 38C, Education Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Susan Fowler, Cheri Carlson (for James Leach), Gary Crull (for Kim Graber), John Grashel, Eve Harwood, Christine Jenkins, Brenda Lindsey, Keith Marshall, Marisa Ptak, Linda Sloat, Patricia Wojtowicz, Chet Zych

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ave Alvarado, Joe Harper, Ann Mester, Trudy Walters

1. Approval of Minutes, Announcements, and Additions to Agenda

a. The meeting was called to order by Benson at 3:05 p.m. Benson asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of January 23, 2002. Jenkins, seconded by Marshall, moved approval of the minutes as presented. Unanimously approved.

b. Benson announced that the meeting scheduled for April 10th is cancelled, due to preparations for the ISBE visit. Two additional meetings have been scheduled for the summer, in case they are needed to review proposals and discuss the rejoinder to the ISBE team findings. Those meetings are scheduled for June 12th and July 10th.

The new school contracts have been mailed out. Districts must return signed contracts before we will place any candidates with them for fall semester 2002. Thus far, 323 signed contracts have been returned, out of the 493 that were mailed.

c. There were no additions to the agenda.

2. Proposals:

a. Revision to the Social Studies Teaching Option of the History Major in the Sciences and Letters Curriculum: Zych described the proposed revision, which will bring the program into alignment with the new content standards that take effect on July 1, 2003. He noted that many of the additional required courses, needed to fulfill the broad based requirements in social sciences, may also be used to satisfy general education requirements in LAS.

Noting that the proposal does not address the new requirement for reading in the content area, a question was raised as to whether this revision should be tied to a companion revision to the Teacher Education Minor in Secondary School Teaching. It is generally assumed that the expertise to meet this requirement lies within the Department of Curriculum and Instruction and the content should be included in the course work required for the minor.

Zych noted that the Teacher Education Minor in Secondary School Teaching is not required of all professional preparation programs. A revision to the minor may be appropriate for the LAS programs in English, mathematics, sciences, and social studies, but it will not apply to any other
programs. He added that it was his understanding that discussions were underway to determine how this content should be included in the program and he did not think that it would be appropriate to hold up this proposal while waiting for decisions to be made on the reading requirement.

Harwood suggested that a meeting of all program areas be scheduled with faculty from the Department of Curriculum and Instruction to discuss options for meeting the reading requirement and the common core language arts requirement. Meeting these requirements is likely to be a challenge for all of the content areas. She also expressed her hope that this would not require adding another course to the curriculum.

Benson responded that she has heard discussions related to putting the reading/language arts course on-line. She offered to invite a representative from the Department of Curriculum and Instruction to the May meeting of the Executive Committee. This is an important discussion to have because all programs must be in alignment with the new content standards by July 1, 2003.

Further discussion of the new content standards indicated that incorporation of the technology requirement may be something that most programs can handle within their own course work.

Grashel, seconded by Jenkins, moved approval of the proposed revision to the Social Studies curriculum as presented. Unanimously approved.

b. Revision to the Curriculum Preparatory to the Teaching of Russian Report: Zych explained that this is the type of proposal that is normally approved administratively by the Executive Director. The proposal requests to delete a course that is no longer offered and add a course to a list of electives.

Lindsey, seconded by Grashel, moved approval of the proposal as presented. Unanimously approved.

c. Revision of the Curricula Preparatory to Teaching Foreign Languages: Zych explained that this proposal seeks to add prerequisites to admission to the foreign language teacher preparation programs in French, German, Latin, Russian, and Spanish. It also eliminates the spring admission option. The other professional preparation programs housed in LAS already have such prerequisite statements. The proposed prerequisites are a 2.5 GPA in content courses in the intended major, completion of or concurrent enrollment in HUM 271, and completion of three courses at the 200-level or higher in the intended language.

Carlson observed that the added prerequisites would preclude transfer students from being admitted to the program in their junior year because they would not be able to complete HUM 271 in time for admission. She wondered if the Office of Admissions and Records had been notified of this change. Zych responded that he could not answer that question, but would be willing to find out after the meeting. He added that the LAS Courses and Curricula Committee is generally very thorough in reviewing proposals and assuring that all affected parties have been notified.

Carlson moved approval of the proposal with the condition that the Office of Admissions and Records be notified that the prerequisites curtail transfer admission to foreign language teacher preparation programs. Lindsey seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.
3. **Matters for Discussion/Action:**

a. **Policy for Selection of Cooperating Teachers:** Benson presented a revised draft of the policy for the selection of cooperating teachers. This draft has been approved by the clinical experiences program coordinators. After some discussion it was agreed that the policy should make clear that meeting the criteria listed does not guarantee that a candidate will be placed with a particular teacher. The following statement was added: Meeting these criteria does not guarantee a student teacher placement.

Harwood, seconded by Crull, moved approval of the policy as amended. Unanimously approved.

Benson stated that it is essential that a description of how field placements are made be detailed enough that it is clear to non-University personnel. She will discuss this further with the clinical experiences program coordinators and encourage them to include details in the materials that they use in their programs.

b. **Consideration of NCATE Accreditation:** Benson reported that the question has been raised as to why we are not seeking NCATE accreditation since we are going through a review based on NCATE standards.

Fowler said she plans to initiate discussions with CIC and the Illinois Public Deans at meetings in April and May to determine if we and our candidates would be better served if we were to become accredited by NCATE. There are philosophical and political issues associated with NCATE, but she believes that the financial concerns no longer apply.

Zych stated that it appears that there might be some advantages to our candidates if we become accredited by NCATE. In some cases, it would be easier for them to obtain certification in other states.

Harwood observed that NCATE accredits programs if they meet national standards. Benson responded that ISBE still expects programs to meet all Illinois standards. If there are differences between national and Illinois standards, Illinois institutions will have to comply with both.

Benson stated that she regards this as the beginning of a discussion. If the Executive Committee decides that it is appropriate to seek NCATE accreditation, it would make that recommendation to the Council. The ultimate decision rests with the Provost and the Chancellor.

c. **Budget Concerns:** Benson reported that the Council has been exempted from the revisions, and did receive a share of the surcharges this year. If we are required to cut the budget for next year, however, the major reductions will be in funding provided to individual programs for supervision of candidates in their field placements. At a time when enrollments are increasing in many programs, this could have a major impact on programs and the colleges that house them.

Wojtowicz said that this could have an adverse affect on our ability to obtain placements for our candidates. If funding cuts require our cooperating teachers to handle more of the supervisory responsibilities, they could easily decide not to accept our candidates. They could opt to accept candidates from other institutions that offer them more support. She also noted that programs are
already hiring supervisors for next year, so it is important that the clinical experiences program coordinators know how much money they will have.

d. Alignment of Programs with Illinois Content-Area Standards Report: This report, required as part of our ISBE Fifth Year Review, was provided to committee members.

e. Updated Clinical Experiences Handbook: This handbook, updated for the ISBE Fifth Year Review, was provided to committee members. Benson commented that the handbook addresses only student teachers. It may require further revision. Another handbook will be prepared for the school service personnel and school leader programs.

f. CTE Policy Manual: Zych noted that this is the first time that all CTE policies have ever been compiled into a single document. He suggested that committee members take time to review the policies, many of which are overlapping and, perhaps, outdated, in preparation for a thorough review of them next year.

g. Area of Specialization Committee Members 02-03: Benson asked that members review the membership lists and email Zych with changes for next year. There is a great deal of work that must be accomplished next year, including the potential revision of all programs to bring them into alignment with the new Illinois content standards by July 1, 2003. She also asked that individuals be appointed to area committees only if they have consented to serve.

4. Updates/Reports:

a. ISBE Update: Zych reported that the requirements for obtaining an early childhood special education approval changed, without warning, on January 1st. This change jeopardizes some of our students and he is currently negotiating with ISBE to grandfather our graduates from December 2001 and May 2002.

Zych drew attention to a handout describing the implementation schedule for Illinois Certification Testing System's new tests of content and assessment of professional teaching. Through the efforts of many individuals and groups, the implementation date for the new content area exams has been pushed back to 2004. A new test, however, will be required of all candidates seeking certification after June 30, 2003. This test, the Assessment of Professional Teaching, will be required of our current candidates who do not graduate by May 2003. Zych expressed his opinion that this test, which assesses candidates' knowledge of the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards and the common core language arts, special education, and technology standards, is premature. He is currently involved in discussions with ISBE personnel and others to see if the implementation date for this test can be changed to 2004, but it does not look promising.

b. Institutional Report: Committee members were provided with a copy of the Institutional Report prepared for the ISBE Review.

c. ISBE Review Update: Benson invited the committee members to the luncheon with the ISBE Review team members that will kick off the on-site visit on April 13th. Following the lunch, there will be a formal welcome and presentation to the team. The lunch also provides an opportunity for the team members to interview the Executive Committee.
Bensons asked for assistance with scheduling team meetings with admitting deans and academic advisors. She needs names, titles, and the programs that they will be representing. We need to have an accurate list of everyone who will be attending the various meetings. Benson expects that questions related to the Council budget can be handled by her and Fowler. College deans, however, will need to be prepared to respond to questions relating to faculty review and the resources they have available to support the faculty and the professional preparation programs. The schedule for all meetings will be posted on the ISBE Review website.

A post-visit party has been scheduled for April 25th, from 3 to 5 p.m. Everyone who worked on preparations for the review will be invited to attend.

5. **Information Items:** Members were provided with copies of the SSN Policy Statement for Cooperating Personnel, ICTS Basic Skills Testing Information, ISBE New Interactive Site Links Teachers, Administrators with School District Vacancies, and the UIUC Title II Report for Program Year 2000-01.

Benson commented that there will be a delay in processing tuition and fee waivers for cooperating personnel who choose not to provide their social security numbers. She also cautioned that the Title II information is confidential at this time and should not be shared.

6. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned by consensus at 5:00 p.m.

**Future meetings:** All meetings are scheduled for 3-5 p.m. in 38C Education Building, unless otherwise noted.

**April 13-17, 2002: ISBE on-site visit**
May 8, 2002
June 12, 2002
July 10, 2002