MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
COUNCIL ON TEACHER EDUCATION
October 17, 2007
3:10 p.m. – 4:40 p.m.
Conference Room B, 505 E. Green, Ste. 203

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bonnie Armbruster, Brenda Clevenger, Cheryll Douglas, John Grashel, Bob Hughes, Christine Jenkins, Marge Jerich, Kristi Kuntz, Brenda Lindsey, Kate Renno, Chris Roegge, Marian Stone, Phyllis Vanlandingham, Chet Zych

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ave Alvarado, Melissa Hayne, Mary Kalantzis, Jennifer Themanson

1. Approval of Minutes and Announcements:

The meeting was called to order by Roegge at 3:10 p.m.

a. Announcements: Roegge introduced Kate Renno, a senior in Kinesiology, who has joined the committee as a student representative. Renno will be student teaching in physical education during the spring semester.

Roegge noted that the committee still needs P-12 representatives for this year. He has talked with a few individuals and found that the major obstacles for P-12 personnel are that they are extremely busy and it is difficult for them to make it to a meeting on campus at 3:00 p.m. He is considering forming a P-12 advisory committee that could meet at a time that is more convenient for them. The important thing is to have their input.

Zych announced that we now have approval to offer foreign language certification programs in Chinese and Japanese.

b. Approval of minutes of August 29, 2007: Roegge asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of August 29, 2007. Vanlandingham, seconded by Jenkins, moved that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

c. Additions to the agenda: Roegge asked that items 3.c. State Teacher Policy Yearbook and 4.f. Teacher placement contracts, be added to the agenda.

d. Executive Director’s Report: Roegge reported that he and Kalantzis recently attended a meeting of the Illinois Association of Deans of Public Education. A major emphasis of the meeting was the workshop on teaching English language learners that will be offered on November 1st and 2nd in Bloomington. Roegge said that two faculty from the Department of Curriculum and Instruction are planning to attend. If others also wish to attend, CTE can help defray some of the costs.

Roegge, Jerich, Douglas, and Zych attended the fall meeting of the Illinois Association of Colleges of Teacher Education on October 12th. There was a presentation on assessing dispositions. The presenters asserted that dispositions are the most important factor in assessing teachers and explained how they developed a system for making those assessments. Among their tools for assessment were focus groups of children who were taught by their candidates and assessing the faculty who teach their candidates. There are some legal issues associated with dismissing candidates for dispositional issues, but the courts have thus far supported institutions in such dismissals if the documentation is solid.

The spring meeting of the Illinois Association of Colleges of Teacher Education will be held on May 19th and 20th and will focus on preparing regular education teachers to work with migrants and other non-English speakers. He encouraged committee members to let their faculty know about this meeting and let him know of any who wish to attend. The location of the meeting is not yet determined.
Roege mentioned that he has been in several meetings during the last few weeks in which the tenured faculty has been held up as one of the major strengths of UIUC. He raised the question of the level of involvement of tenured faculty in our professional education preparation programs.

Roege has invited Cynthia Shanahan, Director of the Council on Teacher Education at UIC, to come to campus for a day to share information on UIC’s preparation for their ISBE review. They have just completed the process successfully. He envisions inviting all interested parties to participate in meetings with her and asked people to hold December 6th open. He will let everyone know when he has scheduled the meeting.

Roege reported that as of today we have 540 local placements for clinical experiences but we do not have all of the fall placement data in the database. He asked committee members to remind the responsible people in their programs to get this done.

Roege reported that we have fingerprinted 137 candidates so far this fall.

2. Proposals:

a. Proposed Revision to the BS in Elementary Education: Zych introduced the proposal and explained that he would like the committee to approve it conditionally, pending the approval of the College of Education. The proposal is time sensitive, for a number of reasons, and the schedule of meetings for various committees would considerably delay getting the proposal to the Office of the Provost if he waits to bring it to this committee in November. If the committee is willing to grant conditional approval today he can forward the proposal to the Office of the Provost as soon as he receives the signed proposal from the College of Education. The proposal has already been approved by the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. The course changes are going forward separate from the proposal. He and Armbruster responded to questions regarding the proposal.

Clevenger raised several questions regarding how the proposal would impact current students. Armbruster responded that the impact on current freshmen and sophomores is actually positive because it is less restrictive than the current program in terms of general education requirements. Zych noted that the program admits at the junior level and no current freshmen or sophomores are assured of admission. In response to Clevenger’s comment that the revised program would preclude candidates from studying abroad, Vanlandingham noted that secondary students do not currently have that option, either. Zych commented that he does not believe that candidates would be prohibited from studying abroad if they really want to, although they might have to spend an extra year in the program. That is not uncommon for professional education preparation programs. He thought that the College of Education and Department of Curriculum of Instruction could work out arrangements for those students who want to study abroad and whether they can or not should not affect this proposal. Douglas commented that it is very important for the department that the proposed changes be implemented in the fall of 2008.

Kuntz made several suggestions that she thought would make the proposal clearer and address some of the questions that had been raised during the discussion.

Grashel, seconded by Stone, moved approval of the proposal with the corrections suggested by Kuntz, pending the approval of the College of Education. The motion was unanimously approved.

b. Revision to the Criminal Background Check Policy: Roege noted that informal approval of this policy revision was obtained via e-mail because CTE staff wanted to implement it at the beginning of the semester so candidates who had already undergone a criminal background check in school districts where they work would not have to pay $54 to undergo another one. He is now asking for formal approval from the committee.
Armbruster, seconded by Vanlandingham, moved approval of the revised policy as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Roegge reported that we are no longer requiring candidates to provide a social security number for the criminal background check. We were originally told that it was required but recently found out that it is not, so we have made it voluntary. The fee has also been reduced to $50. Both of these changes have been made on the CTE Web site.

3. Matters for Discussion/Action:

a. Allocations to programs for clinical supervision: Roegge reported that the subcommittee, comprised of himself, Clevenger, Kuntz, and Douglas has met. He handed out a document showing how the allocations are currently determined and proposing several options for changing the formula and distributing the funds. He contacted the Champaign and Urbana school districts to find out what they pay teachers who have three years of teaching experience and a master’s degree, which is what we require of our supervisors. Included in the handout was a chart comparing the current formula with a formula based on teacher salaries in those school districts. He will meet with each program coordinator to determine the exact nature, scope and cost of early field experience and student teaching supervision in their programs.

b. CTE communications plan: Roegge reported that the committee, composed of himself, Themanson, and Vanlandingham has discussed the dissemination of information by the Council on Teacher Education. He handed out a CTE communication matrix, originally developed by CTE staff, which he has updated as a result of the discussions by the subcommittee and comments solicited from several academic advisors. The major areas of need that were identified are 1) information on what happens to candidates after graduation; 2) adding advisors as recipients of information; 3) identifying the right people in departments to be the recipients of information and conduits for that information to get to program faculty; and 4) more information on international employment opportunities. Roegge said that he felt that the work of the subcommittee is complete and CTE staff will take the information gleaned from the discussions to develop an internal document to guide the dissemination of data to appropriate constituencies. He added that information on what happens to candidates after graduation and international employment opportunities will become a primary function of the Educational Career Services Office.

c. State Teacher Policy Yearbook: Discussion of this item was postponed to the next meeting.

4. Updates/Reports:

a. ISBE Update: Zych reported that a friend and long-time colleague of his, Linda Tomlinson, has just been appointed as Assistant Superintendent for Educational Preparation, Certification, Recertification, and Accountability at ISBE. Tomlinson, who served for many years as the certification officer at Western Illinois University, will oversee program approval and the certification section at ISBE. She brings to the position an intimate knowledge of university structure which Zych believes will greatly improve the communication between ISBE staff and university certification officers. Tomlinson has already made some changes to assist certification officers in their work and plans to work at opening up and improving communication between higher education and ISBE. She intends to work hard to make sure that universities have input on proposed changes in rules and procedures well before they are implemented.

The State Teacher Certification Board is currently discussing moving to a single certificate which could carry all endorsements that an individual has. Currently, many individuals have numerous certificates for
various grade levels, teaching and administration, and various types of endorsements that they must keep track of. A single certificate would be easier to keep track of and more efficient for the use of school hiring officials. Zych commented that he thought that changing the current certificate structure would require legislation since the certificates are specifically identified in state statues.

b. CTE/ECSO organization update: Roegge reported that he is still analyzing the operations of ECSO to determine how best to focus the resources of the staff. See item 3.b. for additional comments.

c. Accreditation update: Roegge reported that he and/or Jerich have met with most of the individuals who are preparing the program reports and most are coming along. There are still several groups to meet with.

Jerich noted that the new NCATE standards are more specific in terms of the documentation required to meet standards and the glossary of terms has been expanded. Among other things, “linguistic diversity” has been added to the diversity standards. Zych noted that the ISBE proposed rules to adopt the new NCATE Standards are currently out for public comment. Interested individuals have until November 19th to comment.

d. Program data: Nothing new to report.

e. CAP Report: Spring 2007: Zych spoke briefly about the report that was included with the mailing of the agenda. He noted that three students have been reinstated in programs this fall and the drop numbers reflect candidates who have received initial warning letters during the last several years. Since the CAP was implemented in fall semester 2003 warning letters have been sent to 111 candidates, of which 38 have been dropped. It was noted that the warning and drop numbers are a very small percentage of the numbers of candidates enrolled in programs, which averages approximately 1,400 per year.

f: Teacher placement contracts: Roegge reported that the Office of Business and Financial Services complained that we are allowing students to be placed in schools before the teacher placement contracts have been signed by the secretary for the Board of Trustees. The contract language is being modified to make it clear that it is not fully executed, and candidates may not be placed, until the secretary for the Board of Trustees has signed the contract.

5. Information Items: None

6. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Future meetings: All meetings are scheduled for 3-5 p.m. in Ste. 203-B, 505 E. Green Street unless otherwise noted.

Meeting dates for 2007-2008

February 20, 2008        March 12, 2008        April 16, 2008
May 14, 2008            June 18, 2008          July 16, 2008