MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
COUNCIL ON TEACHER EDUCATION
August 27, 2008
3:05 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.
Conference Room A, 505 E. Green, Ste. 203

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bonnie Armbruster, Cheryll Douglas, John Grashel, Melissa Hayne, Bob Hughes, Christine Jenkins, Marge Jerich, Mary Kalantzis, Kristi Kuntz, Brenda Lindsey, Chris Roegge, Bill Stewart, Marian Stone, Phyllis Vanlandingham, Chet Zych

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ave Alvarado, Brenda Clevenger

OTHERS PRESENT: Dan Mann, Director, Office of Student Financial Aid; Michelle Trame, Assoc. Director, OSFA

1. Approval of Minutes and Announcements:

The meeting was called to order by Roegge at 3:05 p.m.

a. Announcements: Roegge introduced Bill Stewart, Interim Associate Dean of the College of Applied Health Sciences. Stewart replaces Bo Fernhall as the AHS representative to the committee.

b. Approval of minutes of May 14, 2008: Roegge asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of May 14, 2008. Vanlandingham, seconded by Lindsey, moved approval of the minutes as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.


d. Executive Director’s Report: Roegge passed around information on AACTE membership and professional development opportunities. He is the University of Illinois representative to AACTE. He drew attention to a free webinar that AACTE is offering on the newly reauthorized Higher Education Opportunities Act. He will send out the link to the registration information.

2. Proposals:

a. Revision to Library Information Specialist Program: Zych reported that the proposal amended the list of EPS courses that candidates can select from to meet the requirement of one course in EPS. Two courses on the list were replaced by two other courses. The proposal has the support of the Department of Educational Policy Studies and does not change hours required for certification or the graduate degree. Consequently, Zych approved the proposal administratively and forwarded it to the Office of the Provost as an information item.

3. Matters for Discussion/Action:

a. TEACH Grants: Dan Mann, Director, Office of Student Financial Aid, presented information on a new program from the Department of Education that will provide grants of $4000/year (up to a total of $16000) to undergraduate students or $8000/yr (up to at total of $16000) to master’s degree seeking students who agree to teach in identified shortage areas in hard-to-staff and low-income schools for four years within an eight year period upon completion of their program. If the candidate fails to meet the teaching obligation, the grant converts to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan that the student must pay back. Interest on the loan starts accruing from the date of the first grant payment.
Mann said that the University is committed to participation in the program and is seeking direction from the Council on how best to move forward in implementing it on this campus. Universities are permitted to establish parameters for the awarding of grants and OSFA will need to develop counseling procedures for entering students.

In the discussion that followed, support was evident for offering the program, but concern was expressed regarding the fact that any student could apply for this grant and may not fully understand that if they fail to follow through with the payback commitment it would become a sizable loan with interest that must be paid back. There are no provisions in the regulations stipulating that students must be admitted to teacher preparation programs in order to apply for the grant. Many questions were raised regarding details of the program. Mann said that his office is uncomfortable with the ambiguities and lack of detailed information and he would appreciate assistance from the Council in addressing those details and publicizing the availability of the grant. Roegge said that many other institutions are taking a “wait and see” approach until more detailed information is available.

The committee determined that it supports the program to the extent that it provides much needed assistance to individuals who would like to become teachers and could help in efforts to recruit candidates into areas where there are great needs. At the same time, the committee was concerned that individuals might apply for these grants prior to being admitted to a teacher preparation program and then be stuck with loans that had to be paid if they did not get admitted to a program. There was concern that students would use their grant as an argument for being admitted to a certification program even if they did not meet the publicized admission requirements.

The committee decided that the grants should be restricted to candidates who have been admitted to certification programs in mathematics, science, special education, foreign languages, and the graduate options for endorsements in reading and bilingual education. A subcommittee will work with representatives of those programs and OFSA to work through the issues that have been raised and assist with publicizing the grant. Vanlandingham and Zych agreed to serve on the subcommittee.

b. Re-envisioning teacher preparation event: Roegge reported that the College of Education conducted internal discussions last year around the topic of re-envisioning teacher preparation. This year, the College wants to broaden the effort to include the campus community. A forum is planned for October 9th. Roegge will be sending out an e-mail asking for assistance in identifying appropriate individuals to serve on panels and others who should be invited to participate in the discussion. He summarized the topic as “what should teacher education look like at this institution?”

Kalantzis added that this is part of a larger campus program to develop meaningful unit evaluation on the campus. The College of Education volunteered to pilot the new campus unit evaluation program and decided that the focus would be on teacher preparation in the College. This process has campus-wide implications both for teacher preparation and for unit evaluation. She encouraged everyone to participate in the process on both levels.

c. CTE Candidate Exit Survey: Roegge presented a PowerPoint showing the results of our exit survey conducted with May 2008 graduates. The presentation focused on aggregate data. He will send specific program data to appropriate individuals at a later date.

Roegge passed around data from the annual Statewide Teacher Graduate Assessment, which surveys those who completed programs in 2007 and who have been teaching in Illinois schools for one year. He noted that 304 of the 440 teachers that we certified last year are working in Illinois public schools. Half of those
contacted responded to the survey, and the majority of those were from secondary certification programs. We appear to have slightly more women and Asian candidates than the state average and fewer candidates who attended community college. There is great consistency in the data through the four years that this survey has been conducted.

Comparing our exit survey with data obtained through the state-wide survey, we tend to show the same areas of strengths and weaknesses from our candidates’ perspectives. In most areas, however, their supervisors tend to rate them higher than they rate themselves.

Data from the Statewide Educational Administration Graduate Assessment is conveyed directly to the Department of Education and Organizational Leadership.

4. Updates/Reports:

a. ISBE Update: no report

b. CTE/ECSCO Employment Follow Up Survey: This item was postponed to the next meeting.

c. Accreditation update: Roegge handed out a summary of the current status of the program reports. He emphasized that completion of the reports is the highest priority at this time and they are due to the Council staff on October 1st. There is still a lot of work to be done.

Roegge reminded everyone that this is serious business. If programs do not pass their review, they can be shut down and we will not then be able to recommend current candidates in those programs for certification because the programs are no longer approved. Programs that do not pass their review will also impact the whole unit review and accreditation of the University. Staff is finding inconsistencies in data, which is a red flag for those on the accreditation team and impacts the unit’s ability to meet ISBE Standards. Accurate assessment data is critical.

Roegge asked for help from the committee members in getting the program reports completed and assuring that the programs under their purview provide the assessment data that is required. He asked to be invited to departmental meetings so he can share the review process expectations with faculty, noting that only programs can pass their reviews—Council staff cannot do it for them.

d. CAP Report: Spring 2008: Members were provided with a copy of the report for spring semester 2008, showing that 11 candidates have been dropped for failing to meet grade-point average requirements. Seven candidates received warning letters. There was no discussion of this item.

e. Student teaching agreement: Discussion of this item was postponed to the next meeting.

5. Information Items: Members were provided with a copy of the Annual Out of State Applications Report: 2007-2008. The report shows the number of recommendations for certification provided to other states for our graduates from 2003-2008. There was no discussion of this item.

6. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

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