MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
COUNCIL ON TEACHER EDUCATION
September 17, 2008
3:00 p.m. – 4:25 p.m.
Conference Room A, 505 E. Green, Ste. 203

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ave Alvarado, Bonnie Armbruster, Brenda Clevenger, Cheryll Douglas, John Grashel, Melissa Hayne, Bob Hughes, , Marge Jerich, , Kristi Kuntz, Brenda Lindsey, Chris Roegge, Bill Stewart, Marian Stone, Chet Zych

MEMBERS ABSENT: Christine Jenkins, Mary Kalantzis, Phyllis Vanlandingham

1. Approval of Minutes and Announcements:

The meeting was called to order by Roegge at 3:00 p.m.

a. Welcome and announcements: Roegge noted that John Grashel and Brenda Lindsey are on the Summer 2008 List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students.

b. Approval of minutes of August 27, 2008: Roegge asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of August 27, 2008. Armbruster, seconded by Clevenger, moved approval of the minutes as corrected. The motion was unanimously approved.

c. Additions to the agenda: Roegge added item 4.d.: Student Teaching Agreement.

d. Executive Director’s Report: Roegge shared information he recently learned about Teach for America (TFA). The University of Illinois is the second highest feeder school to TFA in the United States, with an acceptance rate of 31% of our graduates who apply. He noted that TFA is becoming a powerful force, competing with universities in preparing teachers, and is now receiving federal funding. TFA’s mission is to put teachers in high need schools, but the available data indicates that their teachers do less well in preparing students in reading and mathematics than traditionally certified teachers and 80% of their teachers have left the schools after 3 years.

Roegge said that he felt compelled to write The Daily Illini and point out that our candidates are making a serious, life-time commitment to teaching by enrolling in our preparation programs and they should get recognition for that. He also suggested that we might want to explore how we can determine the strengths of TFA and, perhaps, adapt them to our own preparation programs.

Roegge passed around an announcement from Ann Levy Brown, School Supports Manager, Illinois Network of Charter Schools. She is interested in working more closely with universities in the area of teacher preparation by providing placements for teacher candidates.

2. Proposals: None

3. Matters for Discussion/Action:

a. TEACH Grants: Roegge reported that he, Vanlandingham, and Zych recently met with representatives of programs that this committee recommended be involved with the TEACH Grants. Dr. Georgia Garcia represented bilingual education, Dr. Adelle Renzaglia represented special education, and Asst. Dean Brenda Clevenger and Vanlandingham represented mathematics and science. The meeting generated a list of questions that Roegge has forwarded to Dan Mann at OFSA. Next steps will be taken when Mann responds to the questions.
b. October 9 Forum on Re-envisioning Teacher Preparation: Roegge announced that the forum has been scheduled on October 9th, 4-6 p.m., in a location yet to be determined. All members of this committee are invited and he welcomes recommendations of others who have an interest or expertise in these topics who should be invited to attend.

c. State Teacher Certification Board initiatives: Zych reported that he has recently attended two meetings of the IACTE Certification Subcommittee, the second of which included Asst. State Superintendent Linda Tomlinson and the principal consultants from the program approval section of ISBE.

As of July 25, 2008, test scores from the Illinois Certification Testing System will be considered valid for 10 years. The exceptions to this rule are old tests in specific social science and science subjects that pre-date the tests in Social Science and Science with specific designations. The old tests continue to be valid only for 5 years from the date they were taken. IACTE has asked for a standard testing cycle in future years that would remain constant in order to better serve the needs of institutions and candidates. IACTE is requesting that tests be administered on the second Saturday of alternating months, and that low incidence tests be administered at every other test date. The latter would assure that no individual wanting to take a low incidence test would have to wait more than 4 months to do so.

Pearson Vue is planning to pilot online Basic Skills testing in March, 2009. The tests will be offered only at Pearson Vue test sites. Score reports will be available in 2 weeks, instead of the current 4-week turnaround. The plan is to follow with offering Assessment of Professional Teaching and Elementary/Middle Grade tests online.

New institutional certification officers will be required to participate in ISBE training. Training will be conducted every fall.

ISBE is moving forward with writing and implementing standards for a Principal endorsement on the Administrative Certificate. Committees are meeting to develop standards, which will eventually lead to the development of a specific test for the endorsement. Institutions will be given the opportunity to revise their current General Administrative programs to meet the new standards or discontinue their programs. Still under discussion is what to do about the current General Administrative endorsement and what will it mean once the Principal standards are in place. The target date for implementation of the Principal standards is 2013.

ISBE has begun a review of all P-12 learning standards, which will eventually result in a review of all of the standards for program approval. The P-12 learning standards will incorporate new standards for social/emotional learning, which are defined by 3 goals: 1) develop self-awareness and self-management skills to achieve school and life success, 2) use social awareness and interpersonal skills to establish and maintain positive relationships, and 3) demonstrate decision-making skills and responsible behaviors in personal, school, and community contexts. There are 10 learning standards and 4 benchmarks associated with these goals.

ISBE is moving forward with a proposal to replace the current set of multiple certificates with a single certificate that will list all endorsements that an individual has earned. This process includes a complete review of all possible endorsements. Under consideration are new endorsements at the K-4 level, expanded requirements for middle grade endorsements, specific requirements for endorsements that are now listed in
general terms, eliminating course with grades of “D” as not acceptable for endorsements, adding an endorsement for gifted education, and permitting institutions to add endorsements to certificates after the institution has already recommended the individual for certification. ISBE hopes to have new rules in place by fall, 2009.

ISBE is also looking at implementing standards for middle grade endorsements that were approved in 2001 but never implemented. Some of the elements in those standards are 1) separate certification for grades 5-9, 2) requiring clinical experiences in grades 5-9, 3) requiring significant preparation in at least one, but preferably two content areas, and 4) developing tests specifically for the middle grade certification.

At the State Teacher Certification Board meeting on September 5, 2008, the Board adopted a proposal to require annual program reports from every approved program in the state. The target implementation date for this requirement is fall, 2010. Each report will be 2-3 pages and include specific data on the program and a short narrative statement describing changes that have been made to the program as a result of data analysis. The reports will be reviewed by the State Teacher Certification Board, which may accept them, require additional information, place the program on probation, or close the program down. This proposal has gone to rule-making. Once the rules are written, they will be presented to the Illinois State Board of Education for discussion. Upon approval, the ISBE will put the rules out for public comment for a period of 45 days before taking a final vote to adopt them. Due to the fact that our accreditation visit is scheduled for 2010, we are not likely to have to begin submitting annual program reports until the fall of 2011.

4. Updates/Reports:

a. ISBE Update: see 3.c.

b. CTE/ECSCO Employment Follow Up Survey: Roegge handed out a schematic chart of the survey. CTE staff will pilot test the survey. Following any modifications needed after the pilot test, a small group of graduates will be asked to complete the survey. Ultimately, all candidates certified in AY 2007-2008 will be contacted via e-mail and asked to complete the survey online.

c. Accreditation update: Roegge handed out an updated summary of the current status of the program reports. He commented that little has changed since last month. Jerich is reviewing the reports that we have received and providing feedback to the writers as appropriate. There is still a lot of work to be done.

Roegge said that he will be scheduling meetings with those responsible for preparing reports and again 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.

Roegge also handed out a chart summarizing the weaknesses found at our last accreditation review. He suggested that this information be shared with faculty so they could have a clear understanding of what needs to be done.

d. Student Teaching Agreement: Roegge handed out a copy of the Student Teaching Agreement which must be signed by all candidates, beginning with those admitted to programs in fall, 2008, before they may student teach. The agreement is located in the Student Portal on the Council Web site and candidates can sign it online.
5. **Information Items:** Members were provided with a copy of the Certification Annual Report: 2007-2008. The report shows the number of candidates recommended for certification in each program during the academic year. Data is provided by gender, ethnicity, and degree level. There was no discussion of this item.

6. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

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

- October 15, 2008 (subsequently cancelled)
- January 21, 2009
- May 13, 2009
- February 18, 2009
- June 17, 2009
- November 19, 2008
- March 18, 2009
- July 15, 2009
- December 17, 2008
- April 22, 2009